India, UAE sign key energy and defence pacts

DH on Saturday

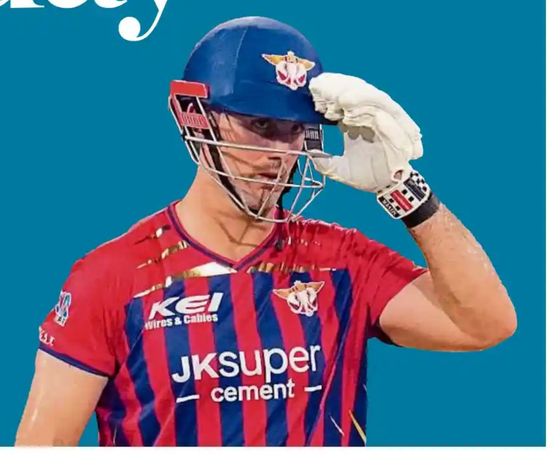
DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Marsh, Pooran star in LSG win over CSK

Lucknow puts a spoke in CSK's playoff hopes

P18



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US willing to continue talks, open to China's help: Iran FM Araghchi

'We have very good relations with China and are strategic partners to each other'

NEW DELHI, AGENCIES

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday he had "received messages" from the US saying it was willing to continue talks, and that he was open to any support, including from China.

"We received messages again from the Americans saying they are willing to continue the talks and continue the interaction," Araghchi told reporters here.

Araghchi spoke a day after US President Donald Trump said Xi Jinping had offered China's help to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and that the Chinese leader had also pledged not to send military equipment to aid Iran in its war against the US and Israel.

"We appreciate any country who has the ability to help, particularly China," Araghchi said, speaking after he attended a meeting of the BRICS bloc of nations in New Delhi.

"We have very good relations with China, we are strategic partners to each other, and we know that (the) Chinese have a good intention," he added.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar interacts with Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi during the BRICS Foreign Minister's meeting, in New Delhi. PTI

China said it had been working to help end the conflict since February 28.

Araghchi also told reporters that Tehran has "no trust" in the US and is interested in negotiating with Washington only if it is serious. He said that all vessels can pass through the Strait of Hormuz except those "at war" with Tehran, if they coordinate with Iran's navy.

But the situation around the waterway, vital to global energy and commodities markets, was "very complicated", he added.

Pak-mediated talks

Washington and Tehran announced a ceasefire last month but have been struggling to thrash out a lasting peace pact. Talks mediated by Pakistan have been suspended since Iran and the US rejected each other's proposals last week.

The Iranian foreign minister said "contradictory messages" had raised Iran's doubts about the Americans' real intentions. "The mediation process by Pakistan has not failed yet, but it is in a very difficult course, mostly because of the Americans' behaviour and the mistrust which exists between us," he said.

Iran 'protector' of Hormuz

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a bilateral meeting with Syed Abbas Araghchi on Friday, reports DHNS.

"In fruitful engagement with my host @DrSJaishankar, discussed regional developments and clarified that Iran will always carry out its historical duty as protector of security in Hormuz," Araghchi posted on X.

"Iran is a reliable partner of all friendly nations, who can rely on safety of commerce," the Iranian foreign minister added

BRICS conclave ends with no consensus on West Asia crisis

NEW DELHI, PTI: The foreign ministers of the BRICS nations failed to issue a joint statement at the end of a two-day conclave on Friday in view of sharp differences over the West Asia conflict, with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi appearing to blame the UAE for the lack of consensus on it.

As the impasse persisted, New Delhi, in its capacity as host, issued a chair's statement and outcome document featuring two specific paragraphs where unanimity could not be reached. The paragraphs included references to the importance of unifying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the Palestinian Authority and calling for navigational rights and freedoms of vessels of all states in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait.

"Everybody knows that which country blocked anything against Israel, and that was very unfortunate. The same country did help the US and Israel in their attack, in their aggression against Iran," Araghchi said.

India hosted the conclave of the foreign ministers ahead of the annual summit of the grouping in September.

Modi condemns attacks on UAE, avoids naming Iran

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday tacitly criticised Iran for attacks on the United Arab Emirates and stressed the need to keep the Strait of Hormuz "free, open and safe" in line with international law.

Meanwhile, Tehran pledged to welcome any constructive role played by India in bringing peace to West Asia.

"Keeping Hormuz free, open and safe is our highest priority, and, in this matter, adherence to international laws is essential," Modi said during a meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

"We strongly condemn the attacks launched on the UAE. The way the UAE has been targeted is not acceptable in any form. We welcome the steps taken by you to uphold national unity, security and regional integrity," said Modi on Friday. He, however, avoided naming Iran as the perpetrator of the attacks.

The prime minister's comment came a day after representatives of Iran and Abu Dhabi exchanged barbs at a BRICS meeting in New Delhi over allegations that the UAE supported Israel and the United States in carrying out strikes on Iran.

India, UAE deepen energy, defence ties

Abu Dhabi pledges to invest $5 bn in India; F-16 jets escort Modi's aircraft

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a ceremonial farewell, in Abu Dhabi, on Friday. PTI

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will play a larger role in maintaining India's strategic oil reserves, beyond Mangaluru in Karnataka.

It is expected to not only expand to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Chandikhol in Odisha but also hold a dedicated storage for India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) itself.

With the West Asia conflict triggering energy security concerns in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Friday witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ADNOC and the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Besides, ADNOC also inked an MoU with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The two leaders also witnessed the signing of the framework for a strategic defence partnership, setting the stage for industrial collaboration and cooperation in innovation and advanced technology, training, exercises, education, special operations and interoperability, maritime security, cyber-defence, secure communications, and information exchange.

The UAE also pledged to invest $5 billion in India.

Modi's Air India One was escorted by F-16 aircraft of the Emirati Air Force after it entered the UAE airspace while flying from New Delhi to Abu Dhabi. He was received by the UAE president at the airport.

The ADNOC-ISPRL MoU is expected to clear the way for the UAE company to potentially store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves, including through its participation in facilities in Vishakhapatnam, and development of reserve facilities in Chandikhol.

The MoU will also pave the way for potential storage of crude oil by ADNOC in the UAE's Fujairah as part of the strategic petroleum reserve of India.

ADNOC will also explore opportunities for collaboration in liquid natural gas (LNG) and LPG storage facilities in India.

The UAE has been a partner in building India's strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs). India currently maintains 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT) of SPR capacity — nearly 9.5 days of crude oil cover — in underground rock caverns at Visakhapatnam, as well as at Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka.

In July 2021, the government approved two additional commercial-cum-strategic SPR facilities with a combined capacity of 6.5 MMT — 4 MMT at Chandikhol and 2.5 MMT at Padur — with construction work at Padur awarded in October 2025.

'Modi-made crisis': Oppn rallies against fuel price hike

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Friday slammed the Narendra Modi government over the hike in fuel prices, with the Congress claiming that the common people are paying the price from their own pockets for the dispensation's mistakes.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi posted on X, "The Rs 3 shock has already arrived, the rest of the recovery will be done in installments."

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the "major reason for the economic crisis" is the "leadership crisis" in the Modi government, compounded by a "lack of visionary thinking and incompetence overflowing to the brim".

"This is a Modi-government-made crisis. The common people are paying the price from their own pockets on petrol, diesel, and LPG. When diesel prices rise, it creates a cascading effect of inflation across the country. From industries to household budgets to farmers — everyone is badly affected," Kharge said.

DEREK O'BRIEN
Trinamool Congress leader

"First they loot your vote, then they kick you where it hurts. Pathetically predictable. Will the Bengal government reduce VAT on petrol and diesel now that there's a Delhi-controlled government which doesn't have to worry about funds being blocked by the Centre?

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh shared an illustration of himself riding a bicycle, with the caption, "If one has to move forward, then a bicycle is the only option." The cycle is the party's election symbol.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said that for years, when international oil prices were soft or declining, the Congress had urged that the benefits be passed on to consumers and domestic prices of gas, petrol, and diesel reduced. "That, however, did not happen, and consumers were fleeced," he said.

'Economic Patriotism'

Meanwhile, Defending the fuel price hike, the BJP said that this is the time for "economic patriotism" and that in India, the hike was only 3%.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari dismissed criticism from the Congress, saying that the party "always looks at political opportunity".

Listing Brent crude price, he said while the price per barrel is around $100, India has seen only a 3.5% increase in fuel prices after 76 days of stable prices.

PM slams report claiming govt planning tax on foreign travel

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday strongly rejected a media report that the government is considering levying a tax, a cess or a surcharge on foreign travel and termed the news "totally false".

The prime minister's strong rebuttal came after the media report suggested that the government is considering levying a tax, cess or surcharge on foreign travel, but no final decision has been taken yet.

"This is totally false. Not an iota of truth in this. There is no question of putting such restrictions on foreign travel. We remain committed to improving 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Ease of Living' for our people," Modi, who is currently on a five-nation tour, said in a post on X.

It is rare that the prime minister himself has denied a media report.

Efforts to pacify Chennithala amid portfolio talks

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As seat-sharing talks and ministerial selection in the VD Satheesan-led Kerala Cabinet are in progress, the key questions are whether senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala will be included and the IUML will be offered the education portfolio.

Satheesan and other senior leaders, including AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunsi, are trying to pacify Chennithala, who is upset over losing the race for the CM's post.

On Friday, Satheesan called on Chennithala at his residence. Later, Chennithala told reporters that he was happy with the Congress high command's decision to make Satheesan CM. He added that it was for the party to decide whether he should be in the Cabinet, while stressing that he shared good personal relations with Satheesan.

It is learnt that if pressured to join the Cabinet, Chennithala, a former Home Minister, may seek the Home portfolio itself. He is also likely to push for one of his loyalists to be appointed KPCC president, as incumbent Sunny Joseph is expected to enter the Cabinet.

Chennithala, who lost the race for the CM's post in 2011, was then made Home Minister in the Oommen Chandy-led Cabinet.

Kerala CM-designate VD Satheesan meets outgoing state CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. PTI

DECISION SOON

- UDF likely to finalise seats by Sunday; swearing-in on Monday
- Chennithala's inclusion and IUML's education claim key questions
- Satheesan, Deepa Dasmunsi try to pacify Chennithala after CM race loss

Austerity vow

Satheesan has said he will avoid extravagance and luxury, and has also directed the police to provide only minimal security for him. "The state is in a tight financial situation and hence the exchequer cannot afford any luxury," he said.

Soon after the AICC conveyed its decision to make Satheesan the CM, Chennithala visited the Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple. He skipped the Congress Legislature Party meeting on Thursday and stayed away from the UDF meeting on Friday, even as he formally extended his support to Satheesan.

Meanwhile, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, who reached Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, said differences of opinion were natural and dismissed talk of factions such as "KC loyalists". He added that all elected Congress members were capable of being good ministers.

The UDF is likely to finalise seat allocations by Sunday, and the entire Cabinet is expected to be sworn in on Monday.

Religious leaders hail Satheesan's secular stand

THIRUVANNATHAPURAM, DHNS: Amid allegations by the BJP and some Hindu forums that the Congress surrendered to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) by selecting VD Satheesan as Kerala CM, a delegation of Hindu, Muslim, and Christian representatives called on Satheesan and hailed his firm stand for secularism.

"Any attempt to disrupt communal harmony will be firmly resisted," Satheesan reiterated.

Santigiri Ashram general secretary Swami Gururethnam Jnana Thapaswi, Palayam Juma Masjid Imam VP Suhaid Maulavi, and representatives of the Assembly of Christian Trust Services met Satheesan.

The visit assumes significance as the BJP has stepped up its campaign, alleging that the Congress surrendered to the Muslim league, since the latter backed Satheesan as chief minister.

The Nair Service Society and Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam — representing the Hindu Nair and Ezhava communities — were also toeing the BJP line.

Sena symbol: SC irked over 'irresponsible remarks'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday took exception to the "irresponsible statements" of some politicians alleging the non-hearing of the Shiv Sena symbol row case in SC.

"Why are these petty politicians making statements?... We will issue a warning — be careful of using the words," a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said when the Shiv Sena symbol matter came before it.

The CJI said statements were being made that the SC was not deciding the case. "... We will issue a warning — be careful of using the words," it said.

Cong flags 'rushed SIR' in Telangana

HYDERABAD, DHNS: As the Election Commission prepares to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana, the ruling Congress has voiced concern over the rushed pace of the exercise, urging that it be spread across 18-24 months instead of compressed into just two or three.

A Congress delegation led by PCC chief and MLC B Mahesh Kumar Goud met Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudarshan Reddy and submitted a representation seeking changes to the process. "In several states, SIR exercises conducted hastily have caused confusion, anxiety and public distrust," said Goud.

Congress to get 2 Cabinet berths in TVK-led govt

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

SHARE IN POWER

- Historic moment for the national party, which will taste power in the state for the first time since 1967.
- Congress is likely to nominate P Viswanathan, a Dalit leader, and CLP leader Rajesh Kumar as ministers
- Vijay promised that alliance partners would be given a share in power

Two Congress ministers will join the TVK government in Tamil Nadu when Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay expands his nine-member Cabinet shortly — a historic moment for the national party, which will taste power in the state for the first time since 1967.

The Congress had, in fact, missed its chance to join the Cabinet on May 10, when Vijay was sworn in. He had asked the party to nominate a minister, but it failed to decide within the stipulated time.

"After 59 years, two Congress ministers will be part of the TN government. For thousands of Congress workers like me, this is an emotional and historically significant moment," party whip in the Lok Sabha Manicka Tagore said.

Sources told *DH* that the Congress is likely to nominate P Viswanathan, a Dalit leader who won from a general seat, and CLP leader Rajesh Kumar as ministers. However, if the TVK insists on a woman nominee, Colachel MLA Tharahai Cuthbert will make the cut, as she is the only woman to have won from the Congress.

"If the TVK is fine with both nominees being men, Viswanathan and Rajesh Kumar will become ministers," the source added.

The Congress missed a chance to force the DMK into a coalition government in 2006.

Tagore, who has been pushing for a share in power, said the DMK had openly announced that Tamil Nadu would not accept a coalition government.

"TVK chief Vijay had promised that alliance partners would always be given a share in power," he added.

Vijay may add more colour to Satheesan's swearing-in

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay is likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the V D Satheesan-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala on May 18.

Apart from Vijay, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy are also likely to attend.

AICC top leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge are the other dignitaries who may attend the swearing-in ceremony. The Congress-led UDF is planning to make the swearing-in of the government after 10 years a major event.

Apart from the CM, around 20 ministers are likely to be accommodated in the Cabinet.

VCK advises Vijay against inducting rebel AIADMK MLAs into Cabinet

CHENNAI, DHNS: VCK, which provides outside support to the TVK government, on Friday nudged Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay not to induct MLAs from the breakaway faction of the AIADMK into his Council of Ministers, saying such a development would raise serious questions of political morality and ethical propriety.

Party general secretary and Villupuram MP D Ravikumar said in the present case, Edappadi K Palaniswami, as the general secretary of the AIADMK, alone possesses the authority to appoint the party whip.

As many as 25 AIADMK MLAs voted in favour of the TVK government despite an order from Palaniswami to vote against the trust vote moved by Vijay — it is said that the CM was mulling taking the support of the rebels and inducting some of them into his cabinet.

HIDDEN CRISIS

J&K's human trafficking remains underreported crime

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Behind Kashmir's tourist postcards and claims of returning normalcy, a quieter crisis is unfolding — the trafficking of vulnerable men, women and children for forced labour, coerced marriages and sexual exploitation.

Fresh National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data has revealed that Jammu and Kashmir recorded 60 human trafficking victims in 2024, exposing an underreported crime that activists say thrives in silence and social stigma.

The NCRB report shows that J&K recorded 17 human trafficking cases in 2024, up from 10 in 2023 and eight in 2022, indicating a steady rise over the last three years.

Forced labour emerged as the biggest reason behind trafficking in the Union Territory. Of the 60 victims identified last year, 36 were trafficked for labour, 12 for forced marriages, eight for sexual exploitation linked to prostitution and two for domestic servitude.

What makes the numbers striking is the profile of the victims. Unlike the common perception that trafficking primarily targets women and children, the majority of identified victims in J&K were adult men. The report lists 36 adult male victims, 16 adult females and eight girls below 18 years.

Authorities rescued 58 persons during anti-trafficking operations in 2024. Among them were 35 Nepalese nationals, pointing to the presence of interstate and possible cross-border trafficking networks operating through the region.

Police arrested 45 accused persons and charged 42 individuals during the year. Yet, despite the arrests and an 81% charging rate, not a single conviction was recorded because trials remained pending.

For activists working on child protection and substance abuse in Kashmir, the data only reflects the visible edge of a much larger problem. "Trafficking here is often hidden behind job offers, marriage arrangements or migration for labour," said a Srinagar-based social worker involved in rehabilitation programmes. "Families frequently don't even realise exploitation has taken place until it is too late."

Experts say economic distress, unemployment and rising drug abuse have increased vulnerability among youth in parts of J&K.

The NCRB data shows that 26 Anti Human Trafficking Units are currently functional across J&K's 36 police districts.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE

We the feeble...

With Modi going, 'Phew!'
It's austerity time for you.
So no gold, no travel--
Lots more to unravel.
Mitron, what else is new?

SC rejects Darshan's bail plea in Renukaswamy murder case P5

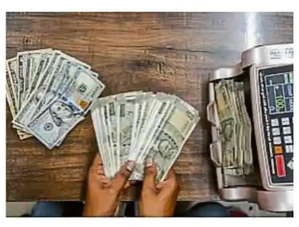
Quickly

State plans drone testing facility

In a bid to position Karnataka as a national hub for drone technology, the state government plans to develop a dedicated drone flight testing facility at Chikkaballapur in collaboration with the Drone Federation of India and provide supporting infrastructure.
Details on Page 14

7 killed after tractor falls off bridge

Seven people, who were travelling to the Huligemma Devi fair at Huligi, were killed on the spot after a tanker rammed the tractor they were travelling on near the Tungabhadra dam in Koppal district. The tanker hit the tractor from behind near a bridge, leading to the tractor plunging into a pit.
Details on Page 3B



Rupee hits record low of 96.14/dollar

The Indian rupee crashed below the 96/US dollar mark on Friday, before closing at an all-time low of 95.81 against the dollar, as elevated crude oil prices and inflation concerns added to its downside pressure. The rupee has registered over 6% losses so far this year.
Details on Page 14

4 killed as rain lashes north K'taka

A couple and two children died in their sleep after the roof of their house collapsed on them following heavy rains at Moratagi village in Vijayapura district in the wee hours of Friday. Unseasonal rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, wreaked havoc in many north Karnataka districts.
Details on Page 4

Elgar case: NIA for bail cancellation

The NIA on Friday sought cancellation of bail granted to Elgar Parishad case accused Sudha Bharadwaj and Varavara Rao, alleging that they attended a gathering convened to propagate Maoist ideology in a "blatant and wilful disregard" of court order. The agency alleged that the duo attended an event at the Mumbai Press Club on January 19.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked by Rs 3 per litre

First substantial increase in 4 years amid surging global crude price due to Iran war

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Oil marketing companies on Friday hiked petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre and CNG price by Rs 2 per kg, which will partially ease their losses but further increase inflationary pressure.

In Delhi, the price of one litre of diesel has been increased to Rs 90.67 while a litre of petrol now costs Rs 97.77.

In Bengaluru, petrol now costs Rs 106.17 per litre, up from Rs 102.92 a litre, an increase of Rs 3.27, while diesel price has gone up by Rs 3.12 to Rs 94.10 per litre. Similar increases were seen across metros and other parts of the country. Variation in price hike is due to the state taxes.

The price hike comes just a fortnight after the conclusion of Assembly elections in four states and a Union Territory and at a time when global crude oil prices are surging due to the West Asia conflict.

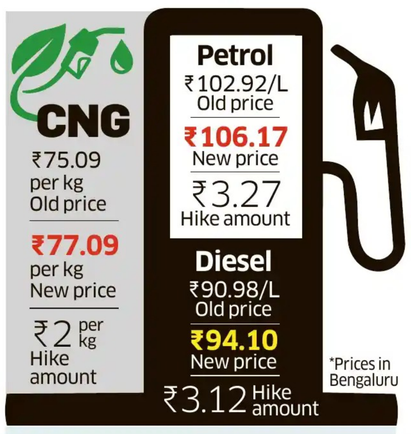
This is the first substantial increase in the pump price of diesel and petrol in more than four years. In fact, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced.

Compressed natural gas (CNG) price has been hiked by Rs 2 per kg. In Delhi, CNG price now stands at Rs 79.09 per kg, while in Mumbai it costs Rs 84 per kg. This is likely to make auto and bus travel expensive in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, where a majority of public transport uses CNG.

After the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022, petrol and diesel prices were hiked by nearly Rs 9 per litre in a staggered manner.

Public sector OMCs were estimated to incur losses of around Rs 1,000 crore a day on sale of petroleum products due to surge in input costs. The increase in pump prices will help cut the losses.

The OMCs were projected to incur a loss of Rs 3.6 lakh crore in the 2026-27 fiscal year if retail prices were not hiked. The price hike is likely to provide a relief of Rs 52,700 crore to the OMCs under recoveries, which is 15% of the expected total loss of the OMCs, SBI Research said in a note.
▸ Fuel price, Page 4



Oppn slams govt

The Opposition on Friday slammed the Modi government over the hike in fuel prices. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the "major reason for the economic crisis" is due to the "lack of visionary thinking, and incompetence that is overflowing to the brim".

Gig workers fear additional burden

Gig workers, especially delivery personnel, in Bengaluru fear that they will face the full impact of the fuel price hike soon. Already reeling under reduced food deliveries due to LPG shortage, the gig workers fear they will have to shell out more from their pocket for petrol. Page 3B

Bhojshala site a temple, says HC, scraps ASI namaz order

Suggests land for mosque; Muslim side to appeal in SC

INDORE, PTI

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Friday ruled that the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district is a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, while simultaneously quashing a decades-old ASI order that allowed the Muslim community to offer Friday prayers at the site.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) order of April 2003 also restricted the right of Hindus to worship within the Bhojshala complex.

The division bench of Justices Vijay Kumar Shukla and Alok Awasthi, in a 242-page order, said the religious character of the 11th-century monument was based on scientific evidence, though it clarified the Muslim side may approach the MP government for separate land in the district to construct a mosque.

The court said there is no reason to disbelieve that the disputed area was Bhojshala, having a temple of Maa Saraswati.

"The religious character of disputed area of the Bhojshala Complex and Kamal Maula Mosque is held to be a Bhojshala with a temple of goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati)," the bench said in its order and also ordered that the area of Bhojshala "is held to be a protected monument" under 1958 Act with effect from March 3, 1904.

It directed that ASI shall have supervisory control over the preservation, conservation and regulation of religious access.
▸ Bhojshala, Page 4

Security personnel deployed outside the Bhojshala complex in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. PTI

Hindu party files caveat in SC

A Hindu party on Friday filed a caveat in the Supreme Court, saying no orders be passed without hearing it on any appeal against the Madhya Pradesh High Court order in the Bhojshala complex dispute case.

Inside Delhi's red light district

A writer befriends a sex worker and learns about the distressing realities that come with the profession

The SATURDAY STORY

Delhi's G B Road is home to roughly 5,000 sex workers, the majority of whom are victims of sex trafficking. In this week's Saturday Story, a writer who befriended a sex worker named Aashna (name changed) takes a closer look at the lives of the women who call the area home. Easy access to healthcare, and safe living conditions are out of reach. Pregnancies are common, but are complicated by conditions such as anaemia, respiratory illnesses, and lifestyle diseases linked to irregular working hours. Government welfare schemes, meanwhile, have made little difference.

Full story, Page 15

IMD predicts early arrival of monsoon

NEW DELHI, DHNS: An early date with the monsoon may be in the offing as the India Meteorological Department on Friday announced that the Kerala coast is likely to see the arrival of the southwest monsoon on May 26 – days ahead of the June 1 normal onset.

In the last 21 years, IMD's onset forecast has been mostly accurate barring in 2015 when the monsoon arrived on June 5 as against the May 30 forecast date.
Details on Page 9

NEET re-exam to be held on June 21

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced that the re-examination for NEET-UG 2026 will be held on June 21, nearly two weeks after the undergraduate medical entrance test was cancelled over a paper leak that plunged over 22 lakh aspirants into uncertainty.

In a press conference, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the "education mafia" will not be allowed to affect the future of students.

The minister also announced that NEET-UG will shift to a computer-based format from 2027, and that students appearing for the June 21 re-exam will be given an additional 15 minutes to fill out the OMR sheet. He assured students no fee would be charged for the re-exam.

In a post on X, NTA said: "The National Testing Agency, has scheduled the re-examination of NEET (UG) 2026 on Sunday, 21 June 2026."
▸ NEET, Page 3A

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

NEET paper leak 'kingpin' held

The CBI on Friday claimed it had cracked the NEET paper leak case with the arrest of a Pune-based professor, the "source" of the leak of the paper. Professor P V Kulkarni, a domain expert in chemistry from Latur who has for years served on panels involved in setting the NEET question paper, was taken into custody in Pune, officials said.
Details on Page 8

SIR: CEO says no eligible voter will be removed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V Anbukumar on Friday assured citizens that no "eligible" voter's name would be removed from the electoral rolls during the special intensive revision (SIR) that begins in the state on June 20. The SIR exercise will cover approximately 5.55 crore voters in the state.

"The BLOs will distribute enumeration forms with a QR code (in duplicate) to every registered voter at his doorstep and collect the filled up form. Only those voters whose previous SIR (2002) details in the enumeration form is not available for verification or does not match with the EC database, will be issued a notice. It is not a notice for deletion, but information to the voter to provide additional documents for verification," clarified Anbukumar.
Details on Page 4

COOL DIP

Boys take a plunge on a summer afternoon in the Anjaneya Swamy temple tank at Kukanoor in Davangere district on Friday. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

SC: Some jobless youths like cockroaches, becoming media

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday decried the growing attacks on the judiciary and legal system, likening some unemployed youngsters to cockroaches, who end up becoming "media and social media, RTI and other activists" and begin targeting institutions.

Taking up a plea related to conferment of senior advocate designation, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said: "There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and they start attacking everyone."

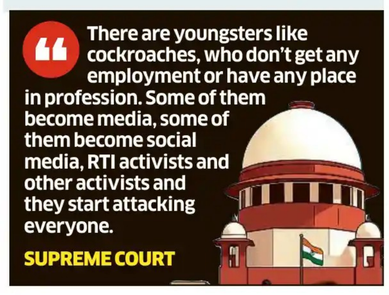
The court also expressed concern over the growing number of lawyers allegedly holding fake degrees, observing that the issue warrants a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The court was hearing a petition by advocate Sanjay Dubey seeking contempt of court action over the Delhi High Court's delay in implementing the senior advocate designation guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

During the hearing, the bench orally observed that the central agency should ideally look into the issue of fake law degrees.

The CJI orally observed that he wants the CBI to verify the LLB degrees. "I have serious doubts about the genuineness of their law degrees. Probably the CBI will have to do something," CJI Kant said.

The bench made it clear that it is not willing to entertain the petitioner. It also strongly criticised the language used by the petitioner, an advocate, on social media.
▸ Supreme Court, Page 3A


There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and they start attacking everyone.
SUPREME COURT

Unnao case: Delhi HC order set aside

The SC on Friday set aside a Delhi HC order suspending the life sentence awarded to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case. The court remitted the matter to the HC for fresh consideration. Page 9

HIGH RISE

BDA launches luxury flats, pricing puts off prospective buyers

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

For many prospective buyers who visited the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) new housing project in Konadasapura in east Bengaluru, the biggest surprise came in the form of price tag. They felt the rates – Rs 51 lakh for a 1-BHK flat and Rs 1.44 crore for a 3-BHK flat – were on par with the cost of apartments sold by 'Grade A' developers. What's more, the BDA's new price per flat has shot up by 25% to 50% in just a year's time.

On Friday, the BDA launched 'Skandagiri' Apartments, abutting Old Madras Road on one side and the Whitefield-Hoskote Road on the other, comprising 1,488 flats across 16 independent towers. Of these, the authority has already sold 488 flats to the Army Housing Welfare Association in bulk.

According to the brochure, the one BHK apartment has a built-up area 635 sq ft and a three BHK apartment covers a built-up area of 1,444 sq ft. So far, eight towers are nearing completion with a tentative deadline of March 2027. The remaining towers are still under construction. The brochure promises amenities like a swimming pool, badminton court, gymnasium, yoga centre among others but the BDA has not taken up work on them yet.

In the past, the BDA had taken up similar housing projects on adjacent plots. Two BHK flats in these apartments were sold for Rs 52 lakh just a year ago.

That translates to Rs 6,451 per square foot. Now, the BDA is quoting Rs 8,000 per sq ft to Rs 10,000 per sq ft for one and three BHK flats, respectively.

Many visitors who hoped to book flats, were disappointed with the price. While they praised the location, its proximity to tech parks and major roads, there was also a sense of disappointment over what they described as "unexpectedly high pricing", especially given BDA's reputation for offering "affordable" housing.

"We pay a monthly rent of Rs 24,000, including maintenance for a two BHK house in a BDA-constructed apartment just a few steps away. I wanted to buy one BHK in the BDA's new project but it is costly. While the built-quality is good, it is designed in such way that balconies face each other's flats," Sangeeta M, a homemaker, said.

A senior BDA official defended the cost stating that the new housing project comes with many amenities that private builders offer.

"These amenities were approved recently. It will take a year to complete. We have about 1.2 acres of land earmarked for the amenities," he said, adding the real estate value has shot up. "Private developers are quoting much more," he said.

Despite the concerns over pricing, footfall at the project site remained steady throughout the day, indicating a strong demand for housing.

Two IT professionals who hoped to buy BDA flats for investment, dropped the plan due to cost. "I expected a 3-BHK to cost Rs 90 lakh," Ankit, a software developer, said.

Beer, whisky prices drop after new excise policy

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state's new Alcohol in Beverage (AiB) excise policy, implemented on May 11, has delivered a mixed bag for drinkers across the state. While premium beers and imported Scotch whiskies have become noticeably cheaper, prices of low-end liquor widely consumed by lower-income groups have risen.

According to the new price list issued by the Excise Department, MRPs for mild and lager beers with 5% ABV have dropped by around 20–25%. Popular 650 ml bottles of Kingfisher Premium and Kingfisher Ultra have seen reductions of roughly Rs 75, Heineken about Rs 70, UB Export around Rs 25 and Budweiser Premium about Rs 20. Retailers in Bengaluru confirmed shelf re-pricing this week and reported brisk demand for brands with newly lowered MRPs.
Details on Page 3B

UNDONE BY NEGLECT

B'luru's never-ending footpath crisis

Despite detailed guidelines and money for upkeep, the city's footpaths remain broken, unsafe, and poorly maintained. There is some hope, but it's not enough

DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

At 8.30 am every morning on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road, office-goers perform a deadly balancing act — not on the asphalt, but because there is no footpath left to walk on. In a city that calls itself India's Silicon Valley, pedestrians now make up nearly 28% of all road deaths. In 2025 alone, over 218 pedestrians were killed on Bengaluru's roads, many forced onto traffic-clogged streets by broken, parked-over, or simply missing pavements.

There are many types of footpaths in the city — some paved with cobblestones or interlocked tiles, especially where there are no stormwater drains or utilities beneath the surface, allowing water to percolate into the ground during rains. In Vijaynagar, one such footpath was being replaced with concrete slabs. In many areas, stone slabs covering drains on footpaths are replaced with sub-standard concrete slabs that eventually break.

No one really knows why such changes happen. There is no lack of standards for footpath design. What is lacking is the mandate and willpower to follow the guidelines.

Erstwhile BBMP, with help from the World Resources Institute-India (WRI-India), developed the guidebook 'Namma Raste Kaipidi', which outlines all stages of street design, including footpaths, primarily in accordance with Indian Road Congress guidelines. WRI-India has worked with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to conduct capacity-building workshops for engineers to help them understand the guidelines and their on-the-ground applications. Rajeev Malagi, Programme Manager with the Urban Development and Accessibility team at WRI-India, says engineers have become increasingly attentive to these guidelines and are working to incorporate them consistently.

Urban Design Cells as a solution

Yet, why are the results not visible? "When projects are tendered, detailed designs go directly to contractors. Even if engineers and designers provide good designs, contractors may lack familiarity with these standards and could revert to older practices. Implementation errors include missing ramps, absent checkpoints, and improperly spaced bollards that allow two-wheelers onto footpaths. GBA also has limited engineering capacity for continuous on-site monitoring. Translating high-quality designs into on-ground implementation is a major challenge," he explains a major bottleneck.

As a solution, Urban Design Cells were created in each corporation. Each cell has hired an urban designer, an urban planner, and a transport planner. "Working with engineers, these professionals help develop high-quality proposals and assist project management," explains Malagi. Engineers typically visited project sites only once every 15 days, by which time contractors would have completed substantial portions of the work. Now, Urban Design Cell staff conduct site visits every two to three days for projects such as Suraksha Junctions, and identify and correct small implementation errors early, says Malagi.

Sunil Kumar Pommala, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner, says that members of the Cell effectively become technical assistants to the commissioners across all functions, including ground monitoring. "That is their mandate in all corporations — and we'll make the best use of them," he explains.

> We're trying to mechanise many things going forward, at least in the North Zone. We're even trying to procure a water jet vehicle for cleaning footpaths
>
> **SUNIL KUMAR POMMALA**
> Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner

Prescriptions not followed

'Namma Rasthe' illustrated manual prescribes drainage and footpath upkeep, as well as maintenance of street furniture, signage, and pedestrian zones. However, there is no citywide, formalised system where contractors are paid primarily on measurable pedestrian outcomes such as walkability, obstruction-free compliance, uptime/service levels, accessibility compliance, defect response time, pavement quality, etc. The city relies on tender contracts, annual maintenance contracts (AMCs), zone/corridor contractors, and sweeping and sanitation O&M contracts to maintain footpaths, yet there is no metric to evaluate the quality of "upkeep".

Third-party audits, contractor performance ratings, quarterly progress reports, etc., are among the prescribed measures to ensure transparency, but they do not exist on the ground for footpaths.

Dead tree trunks are a big problem on footpaths. Some contractors just fill the footpath with mud and cement, then place tiles or concrete blocks over them, without really removing the dead trunk and the roots spread beneath the ground. This organic matter decays underground and eventually collapses, pulling down whatever is above it, including footpath tiles, resulting in uneven footpaths or broken slabs. A contractor told *DH* that many times, footpaths with dead tree trunks are already filled, and contractors just do the mandated work of laying the tiles or concrete blocks. In some cases, removing a dead trunk needs extra machinery and work, and most do not do it.

The unending silt loop

Citizens complain that contractors de-silt the drains but do not close the drain covers, which essentially double up as footpaths. Sometimes the silt is left on the roadside, and it returns to the drain with the next rain.

Sunilkumar agrees that this is the reality in many areas. "During desilting, the contractor is supposed to open one slab, clear the drain, close it, and clear the silt from the road — not dump it on the road. These maintenance activities are simply not happening. There's no transparency in this work," he says.

There is also another issue. "Contractors do not have high-tech desilting vehicles — the equipment that prevents leakage onto the road. They should be lifting silt directly into the vehicle and transporting it immediately. Instead, they dump it on the road to dry, and that's when damage happens."

However, this can be fixed with the right maintenance contracts. "A contractor's responsibility typically ends once a footpath is implemented. Maintenance requires a separate contract extension. Although city budgets sometimes allocate funds for footpath maintenance, the upgradation of contractual gaps remains a loophole. Ideally, contractors who implement projects well should have their contracts extended by six months to a year to cover annual desilting and restoration," says Malagi.

Fixing accountability

There is no lack of guidelines on how a footpath should be designed. TenderSURE, design, Pune's Complete Street design, IRC guidelines and many others advocate for good footpaths that are accessible to all. Bollards to stop two-wheelers, wheelchair-friendly slopes, predefined heights, etc., are part of a good footpath design, but the city often sees broken footpaths.

"Unless street design standards are institutionalised through legislation or statutory frameworks, there is very little accountability for implementation. Cities may adopt guidelines in principle, but there is no binding requirement to consistently follow them on the ground," says Pravalika Sarvadevabhatla, Associate Manager, Jana Urban Space, a subsidiary of Janaagraha, the Bengaluru-based NGO that designed TenderSURE design for footpaths.

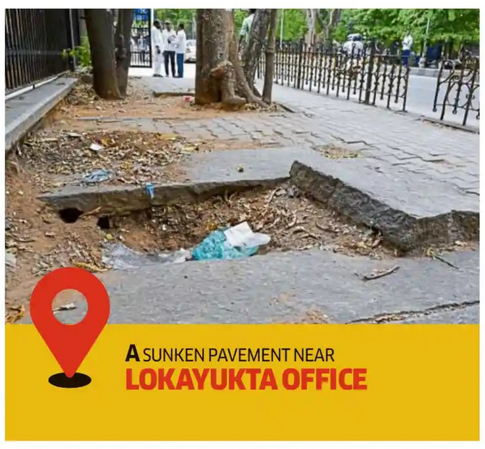
As a solution, she refers to the Active Mobility Bill, which has not yet been passed. "Once enacted, it will be a game-changer. It establishes that every pedestrian has an equal right to the road, and it specifies how an urban footpath must be designed. It is a law, not a guideline, hence compliance will be mandatory. Karnataka has the chance to be the first state in India to pass it."

Commitment to better footpaths

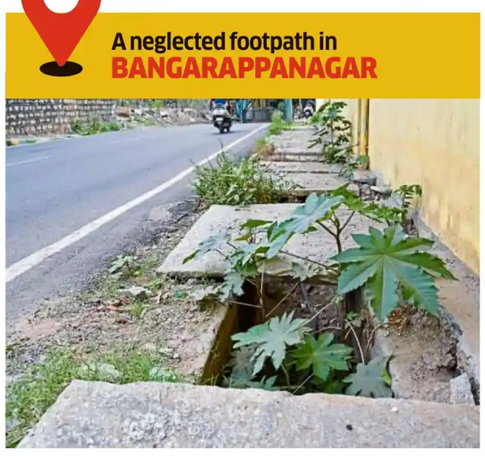
Malagi says that during the recent Budget-to-Action workshops, both North and West Corporations expressed strong interest in developing footpath networks. North has committed to 1,000 kilometres of walkable footpaths, and West to around 500 kilometres in this year's budget.

North Corporation is the only one that has earmarked INR 25 lakh per ward for footpath improvements. Other corporations do not mention any dedicated budget, but it does not mean there is no money. The 2025-26 budget has allocated Rs 2.25 crore across all 369 wards in all corporations. This amounts to Rs 1,000 crore, but is generally spent on small works such as de-silting drains and fixing footpath slabs. The political will to keep footpaths safe and walkable for all is what every corporation needs.

A broken footpath near **CUBBON PARK**



A SUNKEN PAVEMENT NEAR **LOKAYUKTA OFFICE**



A neglected footpath in **BANGARAPPANAGAR**

An uneven footpath near Vidhana Soudha at **DR AMBEDKAR ROAD**

AN UNWALKABLE FOOTPATH AT **MINSK SQUARE**

Feedback: pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Outreach event on Income Tax Act, 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Income Tax Department on Thursday conducted 'Prarambh 2026', an outreach and awareness programme on the Income Tax Act, 2025.

The programme focused on facilitating a smooth transition from the Income Tax Act, 1961, to the Income Tax Act, 2025, with an emphasis on simplifying provisions, rationalising sections and forms, and enhancing taxpayer facilitation measures, according to a press release.

The Income Tax Act, 2025, along with consequential revisions to rules and prescribed forms, came into effect on April 1, 2026.

The reforms aim to make tax laws simpler, clearer and more taxpayer-friendly, thereby promoting ease of compliance across all taxpayer categories, the release added.

Suburban rail: Fresh tenders floated for Corridor 4; third for double-decker stretch of Corridor 2

June 29 last date to submit bids; project deadline is set at 24 months

BENGALURU, DHNS

An aerial view of the under-construction Yeshwantpur suburban railway station. Station tenders were floated separately and work has been underway on both Corridors 2 and 4. PHOTO: BSTP

Authorities have floated fresh tenders for the Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project's (BSTP) Corridor 4 and the double-decker stretch of Corridor 2.

Fresh tenders have been called for constructing a 7.795-km elevated line between Benniganahalli and Shettihalli, including a 1.11-km double-decker section, a double-decker station at Mathikere and other works on Corridor 2.

These works will cost Rs 671.64 crore. June 29 is the last date to submit bids, and the completion deadline is 24 months.

The double-decker — the project's first — will feature a flyover on the lower deck and suburban railway tracks above it along Mohankumar Road between Mathikere and Yeshwantpur in northern Bengaluru.

This double-decker will be part of the Lottegollahalli-Yeshwantpur section of Corridor 2, also known as the Mallige Line, connecting Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara over 25.01 km.

Tenders for Corridor 4, also known as the Kanaka Line (Heelalige-Rajanukunte, 46.88 km), have been refloated in two packages: a) a 12.6-km at-grade section between Heelalige and Bellandur with a 730-day completion timeline; and b) 9.8 km of at-grade and elevated tracks between Benniganahalli and Jakkur. The at-grade section spans 6.259 km, and the elevated section spans 3.681 km.

Additionally, tenders have been floated for constructing four road overbridges, one road underbridge, along with service roads and drains to eliminate five level crossings along Corridor 4. The cost is estimated at Rs 109.16 crore with a 548-day timeline.

Bi-RIDE floated fresh tenders for Corridor 4 after L&T Ltd pulled out of the previous contract in July 2025, citing land hurdles and other issues. The company had also terminated the Mallige Line contract. It demanded a total of Rs 505 crore in claims. Tenders for the remaining sections of Corridor 4 will be floated later, according to officials.

In November 2025, Bi-RIDE invited tenders in three packages to complete the Mallige Line's pending work. While bid formalities have been completed in two packages, a Letter of Award (LoA) has yet to be submitted to the lowest bidder. The 7.795-km stretch, part of package 1, has been floated for the third time reportedly because only one company participated in the second tender.

Bi-RIDE aims to open Corridor 2 by December 2028, Corridor 4 by June 2029, and Corridor 1 (KSR Bengaluru-Devanahalli/Airport, 49.9 km) and Corridor 3 (Kengeri-Whitefield, 35.52 km) by March 2030.

Swami Nirbhayananda Saraswati, president of the Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashramas, Gadag and Vijayapura, along with dignitaries from the Gokula Education Foundation, attended the 30th Academic Achievers Day at MS Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce–Autonomous on May 14, where students were honoured for academic and extracurricular excellence. Dr MR Seetharam, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (Engg & GS); Dr MR Janakiram, Vice-Chairman and Director, GEF; MR Ramaiah, Director, RCASC; Dr HV Parswanath, Chief Executive, GEF (Engg & GS); Prof Karisiddappa, Chief Academic Advisor, GEF (Engg & GS); Ramachandra G, Chief of Finance, GEF (Engg & GS); and Dr Pushpa H, Principal, MSRCASC, attended the event.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Hosahalli-Cubbon Park metro from 9 am tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Metro trains between the Hosahalli and Cubbon Park stations on the Purple Line will start at 9 am instead of 7 am this Sunday.

The curtailment was necessitated by essential maintenance works between the Majestic and Central College stations.

However, train services from respective terminal stations will commence at at 7 am and operate as per the regular timetable on these sections: Challaghatta-Vijayanagar; MG Road to Whitefield (Kadugodi); Madavara-Silk Institute; and RV Road-Bommasandra, the BMRCL said.

BMTC adds three new routes from Monday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is introducing bus services on three new routes on May 18.

EX-298M (express with limited stops): Majestic to Vijayapura via Hebbal, Yelahanka and Devanahalli. Eight buses will make 47 one-way trips on this route daily.

The first bus from Majestic will depart at 6.20 am and the last at 9.30 pm. From Vijayapura, the first service will be at 6.10 am and the last at 9 pm.

285-MV: Majestic to Ghati Subramanya Temple via Hebbal, Yelahanka NES and Doddaballapur. Five buses will make 18 one-way trips on this route daily.

The first service from Majestic will be at 5 am and the last 7.50 pm. In the return direction, the first service will be at 5.45 am and the last at 7.45 pm.

298-MW: Devanahalli to Nandi Cross via Avathi and Venkatagiri Kote. Three buses will make 60 trips on this route daily.

The first service from Devanahalli is at 6.40 am and the last 7.55 pm. From Nandi Cross, the first service is at 7.20 am and the last at 8.35 pm.

Disability sector gets only 1% of CSR funds, says report

Flags awareness gaps, poor funding, low government priority

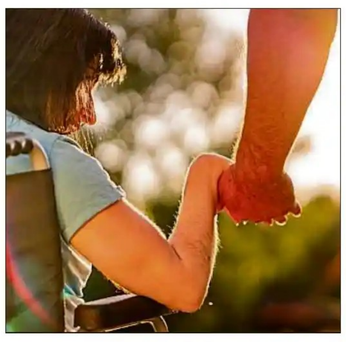
BENGALURU, DHNS

Though close to 10% of non-profit organisations in India work towards the welfare of people with disabilities, they receive only close to 1% of overall Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, a study by Pacta, a Bengaluru-based law firm and think tank has revealed.

The study surveyed 52 non-profit organisations (NPOs) across India working among people with disabilities, to better understand the barriers affecting long-term sustainability and scale.

Not just CSR funds, but government allocation for the sector has also been low.

"The combined Union and State disability budget amounts to close to 0.04% of GDP in 2024, well below OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries. Low budgets, combined with the absence of a systematic monitoring of disability-inclusion outcomes,



signals a low strategic priority for disability by the government, and contributes to low philanthropic funding for disability in India," the report said.

Despite nearly 10% of India's non-profit organisations working in the disability sector, they receive only around 1% of CSR funding, highlighting the low priority accorded to disability welfare by both corporations and governments, the study has found.

Disability NPOs face a set of interlinked challenges that limit their access to funding. Many NPOs said that owing to low awareness, disability is often not recognised as a core funding area by funders. Many NPOs also lack networks, staff, and resources to engage funders and discover funding opportunities.

Difficulty in demonstrating impact is another major challenge. "Outcomes are long-term, qualitative, and multi-dimensional, and this makes it difficult to fit into standard metrics," the report noted.

The survey findings revealed that 50 out of 52 organisations reported difficulties demonstrating impact to funders, and nearly half said they did not have dedicated fundraising staff.

The lack of funds has reduced the impact these organisations can have in improving the living conditions of the disabled population.

The study outlines 10 pathways to strengthen disability funding ecosystems in India, including mainstreaming disability across education and livelihoods portfolios, expanding trust-based and multi-year funding models, strengthening matchmaking infrastructure between funders and disability organisations, and enforcing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act's mandate for 5% reservation across government development schemes.

Part-time job scam: Techie loses Rs 43.48L in crypto con

Fraudsters used fake Coinbase credentials to gain trust

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A software engineer lost Rs 43.48 lakh after falling for an elaborate cryptocurrency scam through a part-time job offer.

Sathwik R (name changed), 36, from Thanisandra, received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number offering a part-time earning opportunity. All he had to do was rate products on Amazon.

Since the task required little time, Sathwik began rating products shared by the scammers.

"Initially, he got paid a few thousand rupees a few times for completing the product-reviewing tasks," a police investigator said.

A few days later, the scammers added him to a Telegram group, where they posed as affiliates of Coinbase, a legitimate American cryptocurrency exchange.

To convince him, they shared an invalid Corporate Identification Number (CIN), PAN details and a fake email address.

Thinking he could diversify his investments, Sathwik transferred Rs 43,48,248 between February 17 and April 26 to over 10 bank accounts shared by the scammers, a good chunk of his savings, a police official said.

When he tried to withdraw the money, the scammers told him the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) required certain documents, then cut off all contact.

Sathwik approached the police, and the Northeast Cybercrime Police registered a case.

"This trend has been observed for the past several months, where victims, especially those with a tech background, are falling prey to cryptocurrency-related scams. It is important for people to check the authenticity of the exchanges before investing in them. Also, no reputable exchanges will offer tips or trades on Telegram or any other social media platform," a senior police officer said.

395 task fraud cases this year

Police data reviewed by *DH* shows 395 task fraud cases were registered this year in Karnataka, including 26 involving solely cryptocurrency scams.

As many as 74 task fraud and cryptocurrency scam cases were registered in April alone.

CRYPTO SCAM TRAIL

- **February 2026:** Private firm employee, 50, loses Rs 70 lakh in Telegram crypto scam.
- **November 2025:** Man, 45, loses Rs 42.62 lakh in crypto scam on Telegram.
- **August 2025:** Techie, 32, loses Rs 55 lakh in matrimony-crypto scam.
- **November 2023:** Two techies, 33 and 40, lose Rs 94 lakh in Telegram crypto scam.

Open House for e-khata services begins today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations will hold an 'Open House' at 52 locations across the city on Saturday to provide a one-stop solution for all e-khata-related services.

Each corporation has set up at least 10 centres, either on private school premises or at their own offices.

The venues will be equipped with staff, computers, printers, scanners and payment assistance systems to process applications. Services will include e-khata applications, issuance of new e-khatas and conversion of 'B' khata to 'A' khata, among others. Priority will be given to pending applications, corrections and complaints.

Applicant training

First-time applicants will also be trained on how to apply.

"Senior officers and staff, including Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs), Revenue Inspectors (RIs), technical teams and civic amenities staff, will be present at the programme and provide on-the-spot disposal and redressal," an official said.

Citizens have been asked to carry all property-related documents, identity proof and application details while visiting the centres.

Transparency push

The initiative aims to reduce pendency, improve convenience, strengthen transparency and provide easy and citizen-friendly e-khata services.

Two arrested for robbing man at knifepoint in KR Puram

BENGALURU, DHNS: KR Puram police arrested two people who allegedly threatened a man with a knife and robbed him of gold ornaments and a mobile phone.

The arrested are Vivek and Nikhil, both in their early 20s.

On February 15, the complainant, a resident of B Channasandra, was near a petrol bunk at KR Puram for work.

An unidentified person approached him on the pretext of asking for an address and snatched his bike key. The two suspects then arrived, assaulted the complainant, threatened him with a knife and forcibly took him on a bike to a forest area in Channasandra.

They robbed him of his gold ornaments and mobile phone.

KR Puram police registered a robbery case and launched an investigation. The suspects were subsequently arrested, and during interrogation, both confessed that they, along with another suspect, committed the crime.

The suspects revealed that the robbed gold ornaments had been handed over to a relative of one of the accused and that some of the ornaments had been sold at a jewellery shop in Ramamurthy Nagar.

Police recovered 47 grams of the stolen ornaments valued at Rs 6 lakh.

The suspects were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. A search is underway for the absconding suspect.

Scrap dealer's body exhumed over murder suspicion

BENGALURU, DHNS

HAL police on Thursday exhumed the body of a 40-year-old scrap dealer and launched a fresh investigation into his death, initially attributed to a heart attack, following allegations of foul play by his family.

The deceased, identified as Imtiyaz, is survived by his wife Naseera Banu, 31, and two children.

Imtiyaz was found dead at his residence in Islampura in November 2025. Banu informed their relatives that he had suffered a cardiac arrest, and the body was buried in a hurry soon after.

Suspicion arose when Yunus, the deceased's brother, noticed unusual behaviour in Naseera in the months following the death, with none of the customary post-death rituals being observed.

In a complaint filed with the HAL police on March 28, Yunus, a truck driver, alleged that Naseera was in a relationship with a man named Pasha, at whose house she worked as a domestic help, and suspected the two may have murdered Imtiyaz.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Imtiyaz had objected to his wife continuing to work at Pasha's house, suspecting their closeness.

On the night before his death, Imtiyaz had returned home around 2.30 am, refused dinner and later consumed milk, given by Naseera, before going to bed.

He was found dead the next morning.

Acting on the tahsildar's orders, police exhumed the body and sent it for postmortem examination.

A case of suspicious death has been registered.

Further action will be taken based on the postmortem report and interrogation of the suspects, police said.

GBA issues notices to 310 engineers over irregularities

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has issued notices to 310 engineers of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) over alleged irregularities and fake billing during their tenure in the Engineering Department.

According to a notification issued on May 13, a committee headed by retired Justice HN Nagamohan Das was constituted to examine civic works carried out between 2008-09 and 2011-12 in the Gandhinagar, Malleswaram and Rajarajeshwari Nagar zones of the then BBMP.

The committee reportedly found that fake bills had been cleared for works that were never executed.

The notification stated that the engineers had failed to respond to earlier notices issued by the Urban Development Department (UDD). They have now been directed to appear before the authority and submit written explanations within 15 days from the date of publication of the notification.

Most of those named are Assistant Engineers (AEs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and Executive Engineers (EEs) who served in the three zones during the period under scrutiny.

GBA urges removal of dangerous trees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ahead of the monsoons, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has urged citizens to assess the condition of trees within their property and submit applications for removal of weak or dangerous trees.

"...dangerous trees and branches which are posing imminent danger to human life and property within your premises may be looked into and you are hereby directed to submit the tree felling application to the Tree Officer and Assistants to Tree Officer for necessary action as provisioned under Section 8 of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976," the notice by the GBA said.

The notice also said that property owners will be responsible for ensuring that dangerous trees or branches within their premises are cut down.

Fining students for speaking Kannada illegal: Bilimale

BENGALURU, DHNS: Purushottama Bilimale, chairman of the Kannada Development Authority (KDA), has expressed concern over reports of private schools fining students for speaking Kannada, calling the practice anti-educational and unconstitutional.

In a letter to Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, Bilimale cited the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which mandates educational institutions in Karnataka to promote the use of Kannada.

"Restricting or fining a child for speaking their mother tongue is illegal," Bilimale said, adding that studies show native-language communication is vital for children's overall emotional, social and cultural development.

The KDA said it had intervened in similar cases earlier, including one involving a Bengaluru school.

To prevent such practices, it urged the Education Department to issue a circular directing schools to stop imposing fines for speaking Kannada and to initiate strict action against violators.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Pan-IIT Bengaluru Summit: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Shalini Rajneesh, Pankaj Kumar Pandey to attend; Organised by IIT Alumni; Venue: Taj Yeshwantpur; 9 am.

Mother's Day Celebrations: Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, Dr Kavya ST, Dr Sujatha Rathod to attend; Organised by the Indian Medical Association, Bengaluru branch; PMSSY Hospital, KR Market; from 10 am onwards.

Kadidal Manjappa Endowment Programme: Shivraj V Patil, Wooday P Krishna; Shrikala Kadidal and Jayaprakash Kadidal to attend; Organised by Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi; Mahadev Desai Sabhangana, Kumara Park; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha: Performance by Manvita SM; Ramalinga Reddy, M Satish Reddy, SR Mahesh to attend; Organised by Nritya Samhita Academy; Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi; 5 pm.

Monthly Theatre Festival: CK Gundanna; Play 'Bellada Doni' by the Rangavahini troupe; Organised by Karnataka Nataka Academy; Samucchaya Bhavana, Mallathahalli; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	66%
Sunset (May 16)	6:38 pm
Sunrise (May 17)	5:54 am
Moonrise	4:13 am
Moonset	5:11 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

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GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY PROFESSORS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up posts of **Teaching Faculty positions** at **Shillong Medical College, Shillong**, under the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Vacancies exist for the following posts across various disciplines as per National Medical Commission Teachers' Eligibility Qualifications (TEQ) Regulations, 2025:

Department	Professors	Associate Professor
1. Anatomy	-	1
2. Physiology	1	-
3. Pharmacology	1	-
4. Pathology	1	-
5. Microbiology	-	-
6. Forensic Medicine	1	-
7. General Surgery	1	-
8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	1

Terms and Conditions

1. **Nature of Appointment:** The appointments shall be made on a **contractual basis**, initially for a period of **one year**, extendable based on performance and requirement of the College.

Remuneration:

Professor: ₹3,20,000/- per month (fixed)

Associate Professor: ₹2,60,000/- per month (fixed)
No additional allowances or benefits shall be admissible.

Eligibility: Candidates must possess the requisite qualifications and teaching experience as prescribed by the *National Medical Commission (NMC)*, TEQ 2025 or as amended from time to time. A proven record of academic excellence, clinical competence, and research experience will be essential.

Mode of Application: Eligible and interested candidates may submit their applications by email to: **shgmedicalcollege@gmail.com**

Last Date for Submission: The online application window shall remain open till **31st May up to 5:00 PM.**

Further Details: Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, terms of engagement, and selection procedures is available on the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

MIPR No.: 0455
Dated: 14-05-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on behalf of our client that, we are investigating the title of land admeasuring 39½ (thirty nine and half) guntas, excluding 1½ (one and half) guntas of 'B' kharab, [3,996.21 sq.mts OR 43,015.5 sq.ft], along with the Transferable Development Rights emanating out of it, in relation to Survey No.34/2, located at Venkatala village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka, India, owned by M/s. Anvaya Properties, more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (**"Schedule Property"**).

Any person/s or entity(ies) having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, benefit, lien, demand or interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of under or in the nature of any sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, agreement, contract, let, sale, outgoings, development rights, Will, release, relinquishment, encumbrance, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, succession, hypothecation, undivided share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, sub-lease, under-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, easement, options, right of first refusal / offer or pre-emption or encumbrance of whatsoever nature, covenant or condition, partnership, trust, family arrangement / settlement, or other disposition, or under any lis pendens, injunction, attachment, judgment, decree or order or award passed by any Court of Law or Tribunal or revenue or statutory authority or arbitration, or otherwise howsoever, or under any agreement, deed, document or power of attorney or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever is hereby required to inform of the same in writing with notarized/certified true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned at their under mentioned address **within 14 (fourteen) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the title of the Schedule Property is clear, valid and marketable and no one has any rights/ title/ interest/ claim/ demand whatsoever on it. Any claims without supporting documents shall not be entertained. Please mark your envelope with the superscription [**Notice - "BL - Yelahanka"**]

SCHEDULE (Description of the land)

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No.34/2, admeasuring 39½ (thirty nine and half) guntas, excluding 1½ (one and half) guntas of 'B' kharab, [3,996.21 sq.mts OR 43,015.5 sq.ft] situated at Venkatala village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka, India and bounded as follows:

Survey No.	Extent		Kharab		Boundaries			
	Acres	Guntas	A	B	East	West	North	South
34/2	00	39½	00	1½	Land bearing Survey No. 33	Land bearing Survey No. 34/3	Land bearing Survey No. 34/1	Yelahanka village boundary

ABHILASH PILLAI, Advocate & Partner,
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates and Solicitors
Prestige Falcon Towers, Level 3, 19, Brunton Road, Off M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560025, Karnataka

Date: 16.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Study: Engg students in KK lack problem-solving skills

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A study conducted by a private agency, in association with the Visvesvaraya Technological University, found that engineering students in the Kalyana Karnataka (KK) are lacking in problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and application.

FindInBox Private Limited, an AI-based skill assessment company, surveyed 850 students across eight colleges in three districts in Kalayana Karnataka – Bidar, Raichur and Kalaburagi.

The overall results found that students' proficiency in problem-solving was 44.4%, while their ability to apply acquired skills was estimated at 41.8%.

Sanjeev Kubakaddi, co-founder of FindInBox, emphasised the need for students to be equipped with the requisite skills in the age of AI. "Both the university and the government must take measures to correct this," he added.

Pooja Nagpal, a researcher at the University of Sydney who analysed the report, said that even those with scores of 68% in examinations secured as little as 12% when asked to write a working programme. "They can identify what a loop is but cannot construct one," she said.

Other indicators of their deficient skillset include the students' inability to fix errors in the code they have written.

"Students who scored more than 90% in theory examinations scored only 27% in programming," she remarked.

Pooja lamented that the exams in India's higher education system were structured to reward recognition over productivity. "In the final semester examinations, students are tested on definitions, derivations and their ability to recall short answers. Multiple-choice questions dominate internal assessment. Laboratory tests, where they are conducted, are graded on completion and not on the quality of code or the soundness of a design or the ability to resolve an unfamiliar problem," Pooja said.

She said that the system was 'out of step' with the demands that the skill economy made of engineering graduates.

"The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has, in principle, mandated outcome-based education for more than a decade. The National Skills Qualifications Framework specifies the aptitude that engineering graduates are expected to demonstrate." "The newly operational National Credit Framework integrates academic and skill-based credentials into a single architecture. The skills outlined in our policies, such as analysis, problem solving, application and critical thinking, are not absent from our syllabi. They are absent from our papers. And in an examination-driven system like India's, what is not in the paper is not, in any operational sense, in the curriculum," she said.

The study entailed asking students across all semesters to take a skill test, wherein they were tested on problem solving, logical thinking, and understanding, among others. Kubakaddi said that they focused on these skills since they were the most sought after by companies.

A cause for concern

Area	Students' Performance
BIDAR	
Logical Thinking	63%
Problem Solving	57.6%
Application	57.7%
RAICHUR	
Logical Thinking	52.9%
Problem Solving	47.5%
Application	42.3%
KALABURAGI	
Logical Thinking	46.2%
Problem Solving	38%
Application	38.8%

S VIDYASHANKAR, Vice-Chancellor, VTU

"Kalyana Karnataka is backward in education. Skill-based education is essential for students in this region. The study has helped us understand the potential of students, along with their weaknesses. We will effect changes in our teaching methods accordingly.

CM releases 40 volumes of Kanakadasa's translated works

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday released 40 translated volumes of the comprehensive literature of 16th-century saint-poet Kanakadasa and unveiled the 'Kanaka Shilpavana' (sculpture garden) at Kalagrama.

The event was organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture in association with the Saint Kanakadasa and Tatvapadakaras' Study Centre.

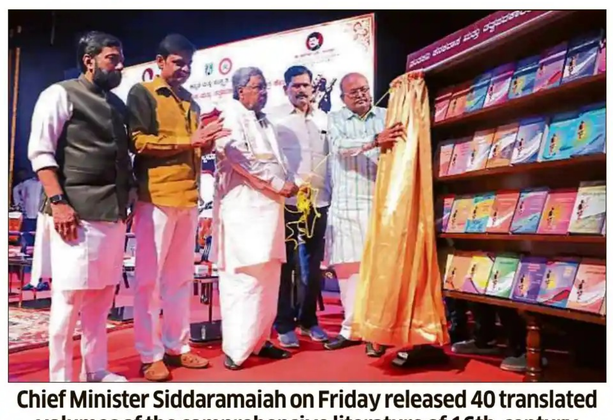
The chief minister noted that the saint's works had been translated into 14 different languages, including English, to ensure his message reaches a global audience. He emphasised that Kanakadasa's philosophy was instrumental in fighting superstition and social imbalances.

Reflecting on his personal connection to the poet's works, Siddaramaiah recalled studying *Nala Charitre* during his high school days. "I have always wondered where Kanakadasa drew the strength to compose such profound literature, including over 350 keerthanas," he said, hailing the poet as a 'Vishwa Manava' (universal man).

Kanakadasa's journey from an ordinary person to a commander (Dandanayaka), then to a saint-poet, is reflected in his four major works: Mohana Tarangini, Haribhaktisara, Ramadhanya Charitre, and Nala Charitre, along with his numerous 'Mundige' (riddles) and 'Keertanas'."

Just as Basavanna asked 'Ivanarava, Ivanarava?' (Who is he? Who is he?), Kanakadasa questioned the concept of caste, asking 'Kula Kulavendu Hodedadiru' (Do not fight over caste; do you even know the origin of your caste?). Even today, we can see that the society envisioned by Basavanna and Kanakadasa is yet to be fully realised.

Siddaramaiah also noted that after becoming a legislator, he made it a point to attend Kanakadasa Jayanti celebrations for a decade, which he believes contributed to his political growth.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday released 40 translated volumes of the comprehensive literature of 16th-century saint-poet Kanakadasa and unveiled the 'Kanaka Shilpavana' (sculpture garden) at Kalagrama.

Support for literature

Acknowledging the difficulty of translating Dasa literature, the CM lauded the efforts of the translators and the study centre. He assured that the government would provide additional financial assistance to print more copies if the current 500-copy sets are exhausted.

"Those who forget history cannot create it. Understanding Kanakadasa is essential to rectifying current social issues," he added.

Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi, RR Nagar MLA Munirathna, Legislative Council Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, and former minister HM Revanna were present. KT Chikkanna, coordinator of the Study Centre, and veteran writers such as Marulasiddappa and Ramakrishna also graced the occasion.

New Bengaluru-Mumbai Exp to stop at Tumakuru too

BENGALURU, DHNS: The newly announced SMVT Bengaluru-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express will also halt at Tumakuru, the South Western Railway (SWR) said on Friday.

Train number 16553 SMVT Bengaluru-LTT Bi-Weekly Express will start on May 23 and train number 16554 LTT-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express on May 24.

Train number 16553 will arrive/depart Tumakuru at 10.13 pm/10.15 pm. Train number 16554 LTT-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express will arrive/depart Tumakuru at 8.03 pm/8.05 pm.

Train number 16553 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 8.35 pm on Saturdays and Tuesdays and reach LTT at 8.40 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays, respectively.

In the return direction, train number 16554 will depart from LTT at 11.15 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 10.30 pm on Mondays and Thursdays, respectively.

Other stoppages are Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Lonand, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Kalyan and Thane, the SWR said. Railway passengers have criticised the train's long schedule; it will cover 1,209 km in about 24 hours at an average speed of 52 kmph, below the threshold for a superfast train.

K N Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Vedike said that while the timings were "disappointing", a stoppage at Yeshwantpur would somewhat make it "tolerable".

SC: Some jobless youths like...

Supreme Court, from Page 1

"I will show you what is the meaning of discipline in the profession," said the CJI.

The court observed that there were already "parasites" in society attacking institutions and questioned whether the petitioner wished to "join hands with them". The court asked him if a senior advocate tag is a status symbol which is ornamental to be kept or for his participation in the justice system.

The bench told the petitioner, "The entire world may be eligible to become senior (advocate), but at least you are not entitled." A visibly unhappy CJI also referred to the language allegedly used by the petitioner on Facebook and warned that such conduct was inconsistent with the discipline expected from members of the legal profession.

"Let people understand the kind of language you are using on Facebook. I will show you what is the meaning of discipline in the profession," the CJI said.

Upon realising that the bench was not keen to entertain the matter, the petitioner eventually withdrew the plea.

NEET re-exam...

NEET, from Page 1

The agency urged candidates and parents to rely only on official communication channels for updates.

The announcement followed a high-level review meeting held late on Thursday evening at Pradhan's residence, attended by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar and NTA Director General Abhishek Singh.

Pradhan said the controversy came to a head after the NTA received a formal complaint about the circulating of a "guess paper".

"The exam took place on May 3 and May 7, NTA received a complaint that the guess paper had some questions that were present in the question sheets this time. We did not want any deserving student to be deprived of their rights due to the machinations of fraudulent candidates or the conspiracies of the education mafia," he added.

File No. Admin-12011(16)/11/2024-eoffice
Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Service
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
(Drugs Section)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invites application from eligible candidates for filling up the post as mentioned below at Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad on Deputation basis. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

2. For further details please visit Ministry's website https://mohfw.gov.in or CDSCO website https://cdsco.gov.in.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay as per 7th CPC	No. of Post	Office for which the post is filled up
1.	Junior Scientific Officer	Pay Level 8 of 7th CPC (Rs. 47600-151100)	1 (one)	Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad

Sd/- (Pawan Kumar)
Deputy Director (Admn), CDSCO HQ,
FDA Bhawan, Kotia Road, New Delhi-110002

CBC 17194/11/0001/2627

S.E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/18 Dated : 15.05.2026
TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Quantity	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	90263067	03.06.26	MS Wire (for general Engg. Purpose) 1.6 mm dia., 16 SWG-Soft etc.	81815 Kgs.	1,25,380/-
2.	60260018	22.06.26	Fish Bolts & Nuts 25 mm Dia. x 162 mm Long etc.	160000 Nos.	2,40,520/-
3.	5626RGC_MAIN_LED	17.06.26	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of main colour LED (Red, Green & Yellow) etc.	Red= 2800 Nos. Green= 2500 Nos. Yellow= 4000 Nos.	17,16,000/-
4.	38261527	12.06.26	Kit of PU Pad consisting of 3 items for CASNUB 22 HS Bogie (Design A).	24974 Set	20,00,000/-
5.	37260001A	15.06.26	Fabricated Side Stanchion etc.	6906 Nos.	3,07,480/-
6.	38263364A	17.06.26	Inner Bolster Suspension Spring for CASNUB 22 HS (MOD 1) Bogie.	5379 Nos.	1,30,150/-
7.	38261512	22.06.26	Modified Centre Pivot Top (Flat type) for CASNUB 22 HS Bogie.	2266 Nos.	3,41,190/-
8.	38261523	29.06.26	Bogie Centre Pivot Top (Spherical type) for CASNUB 22 NLB & CASNUB 22 HS Bogies.	3745 Nos.	3,40,270/-
9.	GSD-KGP-UNLOADL OAD26-28A	10.06.26	Loading-Unloading and Stacking of Railway material for 02 Years etc.	24000 MT	1,14,100/-
10.	33263366	13.07.26	Carbon Brush Assembly for Wheel Set etc.	16920 Nos.	2,92,830/-
11.	33263065A	06.07.26	Primary Vertical Damper for FIAT etc.	15420 Nos.	12,74,190/-
12.	33263212	29.06.26	Bogie Bolster for FIAT BOGIE etc.	100 Nos.	2,28,810/-
13.	33260004	22.05.26	Cushioning material for Seat and Berth for LWACCN coaches etc.	140 Set	2,87,450/-
14.	31263446B	22.06.26	Vacuum circuit breaker single bottle VCB etc.	15 Nos.	1,11,960/-
15.	30263503	04.08.26	Non-asbestos based 'K' type high friction composite Brake Block etc.	63400 Nos.	3,54,550/-
16.	30261394	27.07.26	Lateral Side Flange (RH) for UIC type etc.	560 Nos.	2,56,920/-
17.	30263606	22.06.26	Upper Flange Rubber Vestibule etc.	640 Nos.	1,34,430/-
18.	30263530A	15.06.26	203.2 mm x 95.25 mm Brake Cylinder etc.	610 Nos.	1,22,300/-
19.	40265043	09.06.26	3 x 400 sq. mm, 19/33 KV Grade (Earthed System), HT, Three Core Power Cable etc.	4700 MTR	3,32,260/-
20.	29261376	08.06.26	Compressor suitable etc.	149 Nos.	1,28,450/-
21.	29263281	09.06.26	Set of Lock Nut F.S. All - Steel.	576 Set	13,32,180/-
22.	29263672	11.06.26	Vertical Damper for WAG-9 LOCO etc.	395 Nos.	1,24,710/-
23.	29264983	11.06.26	Primary Current Sensor	382 Nos.	1,33,430/-
24.	29263252	15.06.26	Earth Return Brush with Holder Assembly.	219 Nos.	1,31,280/-
25.	29263318	16.06.26	Set of Moving Coil Meters for WAG-9 loco.	214 Set	1,67,210/-
26.	29263298	16.06.26	Carbon Sliding Strip (SK 85 Cu)	344 Nos.	1,66,430/-
27.	29263177	17.06.26	Holder for Traction Motor etc.	285 Nos.	1,56,960/-
28.	29260010	18.06.26	Set of 1 inch END COCK for three phase loco.	344 Set	1,33,450/-
29.	29263698	19.06.26	Set of Damper for WAP-7	84 Set	6,17,030/-
30.	29264674	26.06.26	Motor for Traction Motor Blower etc.	88 Nos.	2,37,500/-
31.	25263405	08.07.26	Elastic Ring	1686 Nos.	13,24,800/-
32.	29264755	09.07.26	Long Life. Loco side Buffer etc.	412 Nos.	4,37,550/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-178)**

CORRIGENDUM - 1

Corrigendum No. 1 for Tender Notice No.: KIR-N-2026-K-7 **dtd.:** 11-05-2026.

Name of work : Upgradation of Network for Modernisation of PRS Network in Katihar division.

SN	Special technical criteria	Existing	TO BE READ AS
1	10.1 Technical Eligibility Criteria:	Similar nature of work means: Any Telecom work with supply of materials.	Similar nature of work means - Any kind of Telecom indoor work with or without outdoor work with supply of materials. NOTE: (1) If tenderer is not OEM then MOU for technical support in installation, commissioning, post commissioning maintenance problems, failures and supply of its spares to be submitted from OEM. (2) Satisfactory working certificate for the type and make of equipment offered.

All other term and conditions will remain same.

Sr. DSTE/Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-AUCTION NOTICE
No. CLW/Dankuni/Scrap/680 Dated : 12.05.2026

The following M&P items will be appeared in e-auction on 20.05.26, 28.05.26 in May month.

SL No.	LOT NO.	Description	Quantity	LOCATION
1.	RED009072025	Scrap Component Fixture FOT Diesel Loco WDP & WDG Type Loco, Asset No. MW/FS/ 06.	01 No.	Under frame shop
2.	RED010072025	Scrap Component Fixture FOT Diesel Loco WDP & WDG Type Loco, Asset No. MW/FS/ 05.	01 No.	Under frame shop
3.	RED013072025	Scrap Fixture FOT Diesel Loco WDP & WDG Type Underframe Trunion-II, Asset No. MW/UF/02.	01 No.	Under frame shop
4.	RED020092025	Scrap Conventional Travelling Column Radial Drilling Machine, Asset No. MW/BS/04, MARKED C.	01 No.	Column No. A-19/BS
5.	RED022092025	Scrap CNC Two Way Angular Boring Machine, Asset No. MW/BS/03, MARKED E.	01 No.	Column No. A-22/BS
6.	RED023092025	Scrap Washer High Pressure Station (Crank Case) Engine Block Washer, Accessories 1/3 to 3/3, Asset No. MW/BS/02. MARKED F.	01 No.	Column No. A-27/BS
7.	RED024092025	Scrap Coordinate Measuring Machine, Excluding Enclosure. Accessories 1/18 to 18/18. Asset No. MW/BS/01, MARKED G.	01 No.	Column No. A-30/BS
8.	RED027102025	Scrap Fixture for Diesel Loco WDP & WDG Type Underframe Lay Down-I (Including Strong Back for Laydown-1) Asset No. MW/UF/09.	01 No.	Under frame shop
9.	RED034122025	Scrap Underframe Paint Booth, Excluding Railway Tracks, Asset No. MW/UF/01, MARKED K.	01 No.	Under frame shop
10.	RED037122025	Scrap Electric Operated Traverser along with DSL, Capacity 50 MT, excluding Metallic Structure through which the DSL Passes and railway Tracks also. Asset No. MTS/TRAVERSER/ 50T. MARKED Q.	01 No.	Infront of Admin building

It is noticed that all above 10 Nos. Lots are showing in auction catalogue in GeM-IREPS. E-Auction Sale website **https://www.ireps.gov.in of ELAAU/DANKUNI-STORES/CLW Depot/Railway unit.** All the interested purchasers may please visit the respective Lot physically prior to auction date. All the terms & conditions are as per e-auction catalogue and uniform sale conditions for e-auction.

PR6/350 **Dy. CMM/Depot/Dankuni**

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SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in) PUB/242

CE/C/Plg&Sy/SC&CE/C-III/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

1. NIT No : 24-CAO-C-SC-2026 Date: 12/05/2026 **Name of work :** SCR Construction Organization: Appointment of Consultant for Conducting Final Location Survey for 5th and 6th line between Ballarshah and Gudur (715Km). **Estimated Cost: :** (₹) 21,45,00,000.00 **EMD:** (₹) 42,90,000.00 **Completion Period :** 12 (Twelve)Months **Date of Opening:** 29/06/2026 15:00hrs

2. NIT No : EPC-10-CAO-C-SC- 2026 Date: 12/05/2026 **Name of work :** South Central Railway (Construction Organization)- Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Doubling of Track between Bommaipalli station & Valigonda station including Electrification & Signaling works in connection with Doubling of Guntur-Bibinagar section and provision of Auto Fault Locator at TSS/SP/SSPs between Kukkadam-Valigonda section in the State of Telangana. **Estimated Cost: :** (₹) 218,23,84,304.00 **EMD:** (₹) 4,36,47,700.00 **Completion Period :** 18 (Eighteen)Months **Date of Opening:** 17/07/2026 15:00hrs

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website https://ireps.gov.in.
ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.
iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer/Const.
A283 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
No.-Dy. CEE/PU/CNB/26-27/T-01 Date: 14.05.2026
E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), N. C. Railway, Kanpur for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: Dy. CEE/PU/CNB/26-27/T-01

Description of work: General Electrification work and other Electrical item as required in Bhadan SWS Building, Bore well in TSS/SP/SSP and Replacement of Wiring and Lights in Dy.CEE/PU/CNB office.

Approx Cost (Rs.): 30544190.00	**Earnest Money (Rs.):** 610900.00
Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): 00	**Validity of Tender:** 60 days
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months	
Date of closing Tender: 05.06.2026, 15:00 Hrs.	

Tender on line can be submitted up to **15:00 hrs** on **05.06.2026.** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** **1110/26 (ADM)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Office of the Executive Engineer
Irrigation Mechanical Division, Deoghar

e-Procurement Tender Notice
LOCAL/ NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
(Complete Job with Five Years OM&M)
e-Tender Reference No. :-WRD/IMDDeoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2026-27
(2nd Call) Dt : 15.05.2026

1.	Name of the work	Fabrication, Erection and Commissioning of new 2 nos. U/S and 5 nos. Service gates at Head Works with hoisting arrangement, embedded part, electrical accessories and other components of gates and stairs, Hoisting shed, D.G. set with shed of Tardiha Barrage Scheme with five (5) years Operation, Maintenance and Management (OMM) (Complete job).
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 7,05,15,194.00 (Rupees Seven crore five lakh fifteen thousand one hundred ninety four) only
3.	Time of Completion	540 days
4.	Bid Security	Rs. 7,06,000.00 (Rupees Seven lakh six thousand) only
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	22.05.2026 11:00 A.M.
6.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	05.06.2026 Up to 5:00 P.M.
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	08.06.2026 11:00 A.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Mechanical Division, Deoghar
9.	Contact no. of Procurement officer / Email Id	83404 61033 eeimddeoghar@gmail.com
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2491232

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Mechanical Division, Deoghar
PR.NO.379892 Water Resource(26-27):D

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antoyadaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Raod, New Delhi

INVITING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE YEAR- 2026

The Rashtriya Purashkar Portal for receiving applications/ nominations for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for the year 2026 is open w.e.f. 15th May, 2026 to 31st July, 2026. The details are as under:

1. Applications / Nominations may be filed online on Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in).
2. All Applications/Nominations for the National Awards for the year 2026 received upto 31st July, 2026 will be considered.
3. Applications for the year 2026 are required to be submitted online only through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in). The nomination should contain all relevant details as specified in the format available on the portal, clearly highlighting the notable and inspiring achievements in narrative form. Supporting documents relating to the achievements should also be uploaded on the portal. For the sub-categories namely, Sarvshreshth Divyangjan (Most Outstanding Person with Disabilities), Shreshth Divyangjan (Outstanding Person with Disabilities), and Shreshth Srijansheel Divyang Bal/Balika (Outstanding Creative Divyang Child), uploading of the UDID Card/Disability Certificate is mandatory.
4. **Application in physical mode or any other mode will not be accepted.**
5. For eligibility criteria and other details, Guidelines for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities available on the website of the Department **(www.depwd.gov.in)** as well as on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal **(www.awards.gov.in)** may be referred to.

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
CBC-38117-11-0001-2627 Tele:011-24369057

DKS celebrates 64th birthday amid leadership change buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday celebrated his 64th birthday amid continuing buzz over the leadership change in the state.

Shivakumar was greeted by party leaders, workers, legislators and ministers at his residence in Bengaluru. Earlier in the day, he cut a cake with supporters and was blessed by a group of priests amid chanting of Vedic hymns.

Shivakumar, however, declined to respond to questions on whether he was expecting any "good news" from the Congress high command.

He also disapproved of banners put up across the city, including some projecting him as the "next CM".

"About 50 per cent of the banners have been removed. I personally got some of them removed. I have instructed municipal authorities to clear them immediately. The BJP too has put up banners for its leaders, and that is also wrong. Despite strict rules, we have not been able to prevent illegal banners. This is not right; we have to keep Bengaluru clean," he said.

In Belagavi, banners hailing Shivakumar as the "next chief minister" appeared on Friday, coinciding with his birthday. They were put up by Congress leader Mrinal Hebbalkar, son of Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

Indian Gaur captured in trial operation at Koppa Estate

KOPPA (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT), DHNS: The Forest Department on Friday successfully carried out a trial operation to capture an Indian gaur at Koppa Estate.

The Koppa Forest Division launched the experimental operation on Thursday with the support of a team of wildlife experts. However, the mission was temporarily suspended due to rain.

The operation resumed on Friday and the officials managed to tranquilise one Indian gaur during the exercise. However, due to the animal's massive weight, they were unable to relocate it to another location.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Shivashankar said the gaur weighed 1,200 kg and was administered a tranquilliser dart. Since the animal was located in steep terrain, the officials were unable to move it safely.

"We considered using a crane, but it could have endangered the animal's life. Therefore, we administered a revival injection and released it back into the forest," he told reporters.

He added that the department has achieved success in understanding operational aspects.

'KC valley project improved groundwater in Kolar, CB'Pur'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) valley project has significantly boosted groundwater levels in the drought-prone Kolar and Chikkaballapura districts of Karnataka.

Revealing this while speaking at 'Drop Talk: Redefining Water Conservation' at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), former Rajya Sabha member M V Rajeev Gowda said, "Earlier, sewage water would follow the gravity path and eventually get dumped in neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu. After this project, the water is getting treated and released to the valley, which follows the path and reaches the rajakaluves of the region. This process has significantly increased the groundwater level".

The KC valley project was launched in 2018.

Traders, transporters fear cascading effect of rise in fuel prices

Petrol price jumps to Rs 106 per litre in B'luru, diesel touches Rs 94

ASHWIN B M & AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A sudden and steep rise in fuel prices that took effect this morning has left motorists, commuters and small businesses across the city reeling in shock. The price of petrol soared to about Rs 106.21 per litre, with the price of diesel touching roughly Rs 94.1 at some retail outlets.

Commuters at several fuel stations in Rajajinagar, Jayanagar and surrounding suburbs expressed shock and frustration as attendants updated pump displays. "I filled up for Rs 200 earlier; now the same quantity of petrol costs Rs 220. A hike of Rs 3 makes daily travel unaffordable for students and working-class families who depend on two-wheelers and autos," said Kiran, a two-wheeler rider who was at a Rajajinagar station.

Retail outlets around the city witnessed visibly tense scenes from early morning, with customers demanding explanations and questioning how daily essentials and transport costs were to be sustained if fuel prices continue to climb. "We don't see wages rising at the same pace. Everything from food to public transport fares become more expensive when fuel prices go up," said another commuter waiting in line.

Ranjith Shankar, another customer, said, "We cannot depend on public transport as the metro is expensive and there is no last mile connectivity. If the price of petrol keeps rising, we may all have to shift to electric vehicles."

Local taxi and auto drivers described the impact on their daily incomes. "We travel 30–40 km a day. A few extra rupees per litre makes a big dent in our earnings," said an autorickshaw driver near Majestic.

Commuters at several fuel stations expressed shock and frustration as attendants updated pump displays.

Cab owners whose cars run on diesel said that the hike will impact their bottomline. "The source for our livelihood is diesel, and for people like us a Rs 3 hike is huge. We are scared that there will be a surge in the price in the coming days. Our profits are already taking a hit because of cab aggregators," said B K Guru, a cab driver.

Fuel station managers confirmed there have been no shortages reported. Arun Kumar, a station manager in Central Bengaluru, said, "We received about 10,000 to 15,000 liters even before the war crisis began and we are are still receiving the same volumes.After the price hike, we are seeing a surge in the number of consumers. The station has been mostly crowded since this morning."

The latest round of increases comes on the back of recent hikes in both commercial and domestic LPG cylinders, compounding pressure on household budgets. Traders and transport operators warned of cascading price rises: auto and bus fares, freight charges and even grocery prices.

Sustaining daily life will be tough: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah attacked the central government for increasing fuel prices. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, due to its administrative failures, has dealt a severe blow to the lives of the common people by hiking petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre. This is not just a price hike; it is a direct attack on the daily lives of the ordinary people of India. In Bengaluru, the price of petrol has crossed Rs 106 per liter, while diesel has reached Rs 94. This increase is not limited to the fuel pumps. Along with it, transportation costs and the prices of essential items, including vegetables, fruits, and milk, will rise. As a result, it will become increasingly difficult for laborers, farmers, small traders, homemakers, and the middle class to sustain their daily lives," he said.

Gig workers fear impact of petrol price hike

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The hike in the price of petrol will soon impact the livelihoods of thousands of gig workers in the city, more so given that aggregator platforms shirk responsibility and attempt to wash their hands of the welfare of these workers.

With petrol now costing Rs 106 per litre in the city, gig workers are urging delivery platforms to ensure transparency.

"We delivery agents continue to remain the most uninformed within the whole quick commerce ecosystem. We have no access to the senior management, and they do not reach out to us to explain how they plan to handle any crisis. Even now, with the petrol hike, we are left to fend for ourselves," said Tarun Kumar, a 33-year-old delivery agent, adding that while restaurants have the option of raising their prices to combat the LPG crisis, delivery agents have no avenue to demand higher pay.

With petrol now costing Rs 106 per litre in Bengaluru, gig workers are urging delivery platforms to ensure transparency.

As a result of the LPG crisis, many smaller restaurants no longer prioritise online orders, said delivery workers. "With limited LPG supply, they focus on dine-in customers, as that is a more reliable source of income. But because of this, we're seeing a slow decline in the number of daily online orders. Before the crisis, I would complete 20-25 orders, on average, per day. I would constantly get orders. These numbers have now come down as I have to sometimes wait for more than an hour between two orders," said Muzakir (48).

Delivery agents *DH* spoke to claimed a drop of 20% in monthly income in the last two months.

So far, the stability brought by the large-scale restaurants and chains has helped keep the gig workers afloat, said Vinay Sarathy, president, United Food Delivery Partners Union. "Because of these chain restaurants, night deliveries haven't been impacted, and that has helped the gig workers," he added.

If the crisis worsens, the government must look into providing subsidies for gig workers, said Inayath Ali, president of Karnataka App-Based Workers Union and national vice-president of the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers Union.

"With the dip in online orders, the delivery agents are already making less. Now, on top of that, if they have to shell out more from their pocket for petrol, without any aid from the companies, it will severely impact the livelihood of thousands," he added.

Lokayukta cops arrest Health Dept officer, pvt lab technician

YADGIR, DHNS: Lokayukta police in Yadgir arrested a Senior Health Inspection Officer attached to the Department of Health and Family Welfare, and the technician of a private laboratory for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 50,000 to reopen a laboratory that was shut down.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Rahul Subbanna Kolluru, owner of Sri Sai Ram Diagnostics, Lokayukta police arrested Senior Health Inspection Officer Sugoorappa Thippanna and Santhosh Sharanappa Gowda, the technician. Thippanna reportedly demanded the bribe through Gowda to reopen Kolluru's lab, which had been sealed.

Both Thippanna and Gowda were arrested.

Condition of maintenance need not be expressed in writing: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court observed that, under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, a condition of maintenance need not necessarily be expressed in writing while transferring the properties. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum said this while dismissing a petition filed by the daughter challenging the tribunal's order cancelling a gift deed executed by the mother.

"The Act is a beneficial legislation intended to protect senior citizens from destitution and neglect. To insist upon a formal recital in every case would render the statutory protection illusory and defeat the legislative intent," Justice Magadum said.

The mother, a resident of Mysuru, who is a senior citizen and retired government school teacher, had resided with her daughter for three-and-a-half years owing to marital disputes. As advised by her children, the mother transferred the properties to the daughter and the son by way of a gift, with an understanding that the rental income would be utilized for the benefit of the mother. The mother moved the tribunal (Assistant Commissioner) after the children started collecting rent for themselves while the former lived in a rented house.

The Tribunal allowed the application and cancelled the transfer which was upheld by the Deputy Commissioner. The daughter moved the High Court arguing that there was no express stipulation in the gift deed obligating her to maintain the mother.

The court cited the co-ordinate bench's order in the Venkataiah case, interpreting the Apex Court judgement in the Sudesh Chhikara vs Ramti Devi case. The High Court had held that the condition of maintenance can be inferred from the relationship between the parties, surrounding circumstances, and subsequent conduct, and need not necessarily be expressed in writing.

Justice Magadum observed that the mother is now compelled to reside in a rented accommodation, bereft of both shelter in her own property and the benefit of income arising therefrom. "The statute, being a beneficial and remedial legislation, cannot be rendered otiose by insisting upon a formal or express recital of such obligation in the deed of transfer. The absence of an explicit covenant is inconsequential when the conduct of the transferees and the resultant destitution of the transferor vividly establish a breach of the foundational expectation underlying the transaction," Justice Magadum said.

The court further said, "The petitioner (daughter), having been the beneficiary of the gift, cannot shirk her obligation viz., legal, moral, and social, to ensure the well-being of her mother. The beneficent provisions of the Act must be given a purposive interpretation to advance its object. This Court is therefore of the considered view that no grounds are made out to interfere with the concurrent findings recorded by the authorities."

7 devotees travelling to Huligemma fair killed in tractor-tanker collision near TB dam

KOPPAL/HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS

Seven devotees, travelling to the Huligemma Devi fair at Huligi, were killed on the spot after a tanker rammed into a tractor on National Highway 50 near the Tungabhadra (TB) dam on Friday.

A total of 19 relatives from different villages in Vijayanagara and Ballari districts were travelling in the tractor when the speeding tanker allegedly hit the vehicle from behind near a bridge. The tractor driver lost control, crashed into the road divider and plunged nearly 15 feet into a pit below the bridge.

The deceased have been identified as Gouramma (25), Geetha (20), Mahantesh (18), Manjamma (30), tractor driver Kenchappa (35), one-year-old Bharat and Maya(16), all ,residents of Sandur and Kudligi taluks.

Nine injured persons were admitted to the Koppal district hospital, while four others were shifted to the government hospital in Hosapete. Doctors said the condition of two of the injured is critical.

"Devotees travelling in a tractor to the Huligemma Devi fair have died in the accident. According to preliminary reports, the incident occurred after a tanker hit the tractor. The tanker driver has been arrested," said Ballari IGP P S Harsha while speaking to the media.

The tanker was reportedly travelling from Bengaluru to Rajasthan. The tractor was partially damaged, and bedding materials, vegetables and household items being carried in it were strewn across the spot.

The ill-fated tractor falls into a pit on the national highway in Koppal taluk.

Koppal SP Ram L Arasiddi and Vijayanagara Jahnavi S visited the accident site.

MP E Tukaram said that the families of the six deceased would be given compensation of Rs 5 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"I spoke to the Chief Minister regarding the accident, and he immediately announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each," he said.

The MP also said he would bear the treatment expenses of all the injured persons. "Under CSR funds of companies, there is a provision to cover expenses up to Rs 1 lakh. I will ensure all such assistance is provided," he added.

Fact-finding report slams Azim Premji varsity for 'targeting' students over ABVP mob violence

BENGALURU, DHNS: A fact-finding report released on Friday has lambasted the Azim Premji University (APU) administration for its response to a mob attack on its Sarjapur campus in February, accusing the institution of failing to protect its students and instead initiating disproportionate disciplinary actions against them.

The report, titled "ABVP's Vigilante Violence Against Azim Premji University," was compiled by a coalition of civil society groups, including PUCL-Karnataka, Bahutva Karnataka, and the All India Students' Federation (AISF).

It follows an incident on February 24, 2026, when a mob of 20 individuals, identifying as ABVP members, stormed the campus to protest a student-led reading circle.

The mob targeted a discussion organised by the student group 'SPARK-APU' concerning the 1991 Kunan-Poshpora mass-rape incident in Kashmir. According to the report, the group vandalised campus property, including the university plaque, and assaulted students. Testimonies included in the report describe a terrifying atmosphere where students, specifically those wearing hijabs or skull caps, were chased or beaten by the mob.

The findings highlight a duality in the university's legal response. While the Head of Security filed an FIR against the ABVP members, the University Registrar simultaneously filed a criminal complaint against the student group SPARK-APU. "The FIR against SPARK-APU was a disproportionate response; the university shifted the blame onto students, whereas the administration should have been held accountable for compromising campus safety," the report states, based on student testimonies.

The report further reveals that on May 8, a student from the MA Development program was suspended for two years following a Special Disciplinary Committee hearing. The committee reportedly cited the student's defiance of the Code of Conduct and failure to follow instructions to de-escalate the situation during the mob attack.

Speakers at the press conference, including scientist Suvrat Raju and PUCL-K president Arvind Narrain, characterised the incident as a part of a broader national pattern of aggressively slamming down student expression.

Mohan Rao of Bahutva Karnataka expressed concern over the shrinking of academic spaces where learning opportunities are stifled by surveillance and fear.

Premium beer, whiskey prices fall by 20 to 25% under govt's new excise policy

Cost of cheap liquor increases

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state's new Alcohol in Beverage (AiB) excise policy, implemented on May 11, has delivered a mixed bag for drinkers across the state, while premium beers and imported scotch whiskies have become noticeably cheaper, prices of low-end liquor widely consumed by lower-income groups have risen.

According to the new price list issued by the Excise Department, Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) for mild and lager beers with 5 per cent Alcohol by Volume (ABV) have dropped by around 20–25 per cent.

Popular 650 ml bottles of Kingfisher Premium and Kingfisher Ultra have seen reductions of roughly Rs 75, Heineken about Rs 70, UB Export around Rs 25 and Budweiser Premium about Rs 20.

Retailers in Bengaluru confirmed shelf repricing this week and reported brisk demand for brands with newly lowered MRPs.

Premium scotch sees steep declines

Imported scotch whiskies have also become significantly cheaper.

The MRP for 750 ml bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label (43% ABV) and Chivas Regal (40% ABV) has fallen from about Rs 5,190 to approximately Rs 4,100 — a reduction of nearly 20 per cent.

Industry sources said the change will be welcomed by higher-income and premium-segment consumers who often purchase these brands.

Lower-end liquor becomes costlier

The windfall, however, is not uniform. The AiB taxation revision has increased the burden on the lowest excise slabs — particularly Indian-made liquor (IML) sold in 180 ml tetra packs and similar small formats.

Budget offerings like Original Choice and Bagpiper Whisky may see price increases of up to 25%. In comparison, premium spirits from global giants, like Diageo and Pernod Ricard, could see price declines of 16–20%.

Prices in the first five (lowest) slabs have surged by an estimated 20–25 per cent, putting pressure on lower- and middle-income consumers who rely on inexpensive spirits like Old Monk, which cost Rs 765, have increased to Rs 850.

Govt working to bridge academia-industry gap: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said his government is working on bridging the gap between academia and industry by fostering dialogue on employability, skill development and career readiness for the future workforce.

"To sustain Karnataka's growth, deeper and more purposeful collaboration is needed between universities, industries and the government. These three pillars must work together to ensure that education reflects the needs of the economy," Siddaramaiah said at the inauguration of the Campus to Career (C2C) summit.

"Curricula must reflect marketplace realities, institutions must prepare students for practical challenges, and universities must measure success not only by enrolment numbers, but by the outcomes they create for students," Siddaramaiah said.

The higher education department has tied up with Wipro, Azim Premji Foundation and Infosys to provide internship opportunities, industry exposure and skill development support for students, Siddaramaiah said.

Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar said only 17% of engineering graduates find jobs, quoting from a report by former IIIT-B director S Sadagopan. Universities, he said, will revisit their curricula and explore the incorporation of AI. The minister also invited the industry to collaborate with government colleges.

At the event, the British Council inked an agreement with the Karnataka State Higher Education Council and the higher education department for a study programme at the University of Wolverhampton as part of the Scholars for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent (SCOUT) programme. Under this, 29 students from the University of Mysore, Karnatak University, Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics, Davangere University, Akkamahadevi Women's University and Bidar University will study at Wolverhampton.

AI guidelines

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Mohammed Mohsin said guidelines will be released to enable better and more effective use of AI. He was speaking at a workshop during the C2C summit. "SOP for the use of AI is being considered for release," he said.

Five global varsities in Karnataka

Sudhakar said Karnataka and Bengaluru will be home to five international universities: Liverpool University, Lancaster University, University of New South Wales, Imperial College London (R&D) and Birkbeck, University of London. "This year, Liverpool University is opening up admissions," he said.

SIR: Cong, BJP to intensify booth-level monitoring

EC to take up exercise in state from June 20

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress and BJP are relying on their booth-level agents (BLA) to ensure the Special Invasive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka does not harm their respective political interests.

The Election Commission (EC) has announced that the SIR process in Karnataka will start from June 20. The last SIR in the state was done in 2002 when the state had 3.55 crore voters. Now, the state has 5.55 crore voters. The final electoral roll will be published on October 7.

Congress is wary of the exercise, particularly after SIR in states like Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh stirred a controversy.

"The aim of SIR is to see that Scheduled Caste, backward classes and minority votes are cut. We'll ensure they're protected. Everyone born in India should have their rights," Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar said.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy chief minister

"The aim of SIR is to see that Scheduled Caste, backward classes and minority votes are cut. We'll ensure they're protected. Everyone born in India should have their rights.

There was pressure on the Congress government to not allow the SIR to take place in the state. However, a decision like this is off the table. The government's focus will be on ensuring there is no foul play during SIR.

According to Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, Congress has been preparing for the SIR over the past one year. "We've held training sessions for all our BLAs. They have been asked to stay alert and monitor the electoral roll revision," he said, adding that observers have been appointed in all constituencies. "The BJP has made EC its toolkit. The focus seems to be more on excluding voters instead of inclusion," he added.

The BJP has been training its cadre on SIR during the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan camps. Workers have been asked to devote 100 days and ensure that the party's supporters are not removed from the electoral rolls.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra described the SIR as "a golden opportunity" for his party to ensure illegal aliens are removed from the electoral rolls.

"We will closely follow the SIR process in all constituencies where committees will be formed," Vijayendra said, adding that his party's BLAs were trained.

Both parties said they had appointed BLA-2 as well. While the main BLA works with the incumbent MLA or the contesting candidate, as the case may be, BLA-2 manages electoral activities at the booth-level.

CEO assures no eligible voter will be removed

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V Anbukumar on Friday assured citizens that no "eligible" voter's name would be removed from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise that begins in the state on June 20. The SIR exercise will cover approximately 5.55 crore voters in the state.

"The BLOs will distribute enumeration forms with a QR code (in duplicate) to every registered voter at his doorstep and also collect the filled up form. Only those voters whose previous SIR (2002) details mentioned in the enumeration form is not available for verification or does not match with the EC database, will be issued a notice. But it is not a notice for deletion, but only information to the voter to provide additional documents needed for verification," clarified Anbukumar, during a press meet held in Bengaluru. He also asserted that an Indian citizen and who has attained 18 years of age is an eligible voter.

The CEO urged all recognised political parties to appoint booth level agents (BLAs) to work in tandem with the 59,050 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) appointed by the Election Commission for the door-to-door exercise. "At present only 25,284 BLAs have been appointed by the parties. I urge the parties to appoint BLAs to every polling station to ensure active participation and transparency in the revision process," said Anbukumar.

Voter assistance centres will be set up at every gram panchayat and urban wards and the voters who are not contacted by BLOs are advised to call the voter helpline number 1950 or approach their respective Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (ARO) or Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), by logging into the ECINet portal.

SIR in numbers
(as on May 12, 2026)

5,55,74,064	59,050	25,284	October 1, 2026
Total electors	Booth Level Officers	Booth Level Agents	Qualifying date for SIR in state

TIMELINE

- **June 20 to June 29:** Preparation and training and printing of QR coded enumeration forms
- **June 30 to July 29:** House to house visit by BLOs
- **By July 29:** Rationalisation of polling stations (1200 votes each)
- **August 5:** Publication of draft electoral roll
- **Aug 5 to Sept 4:** Period for filing claims & objections
- **Aug 5 to Oct 3:** Notice phase and disposal of claims and objections
- **Octo 7:** Publication of final electoral roll

'Exercise will help weed out multiple voter ID cards'

BENGALURU, DHNS: If you are registered as a voter in more than one place or possess more than one voter id card, this is your last chance to surrender the additional cards and escape punishment.

Some voters have multiple voter id cards – one in home town and other at their place of work. Some others might have forgotten to remove their names from the voter-list when they relocate to a new locality or constituency. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) will help you retain the vote at one place," said CEO V Anbukumar.

For those holding multiple voter id cards, when the BLO distributes enumeration forms to each address where one is enrolled as a voter, one must submit the enumeration form only at the location or constituency where they wish to retain their vote. "The additional voter id cards will automatically be excluded if you don't submit the enumeration form, but not without verification by the Booth Level Officer as an absent, shifted, dead or duplicate voter," added Anbukumar.

The Election Commission for the first time will be digitising the enumeration forms and the draft rolls will help detect duplications by demography or photo similarity software.

Having multiple voter identity cards is an offence liable for punishment (imprisonment) under section 31 of Representation of People's Act, 1950.

What to do if you get a notice

If a voter gets a notice, he is required to provide supporting documents from among the 11 permissible documents (also Aadhar) to establish his credentials.

- **If one is born in India** before July 1, 1987, – provide document for "self" from among the list of 11 permissible documents or Aadhar card to establish date and place of birth.
- **If born in India** between July 1, 1987, and December 2, 2004, – Provide for "self" and also a parent.
- **If born in India after** December 2, 2004 – Provide document for self, father and mother and if one of the parents is not Indian, give a copy of his/her valid passport and visa at the time of your birth.
- **If born outside** of India – attach proof of birth registration issued by the Indian Mission abroad.
- **If acquired Indian** citizenship by registration/ naturalisation , provide certificate of registration of citizenship.

REVA University strengthens future-ready education with academic initiatives

(Left to right) REVA University's director - admissions Gaurav Yadav, chancellor Dr P Shyama Raju, registrar Dr M Dhanamjaya and REVA Business School's dean Dr Shubha A, announce academic initiatives to build future-ready talent in AI, semiconductors, EVs and aerospace.

Bengaluru-based REVA University announced a series of academic initiatives, inter-disciplinary programmes, industry collaborations, centres of excellence and scholarship opportunities aimed at preparing students for emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, aerospace, electric mobility, automation, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and digital infrastructure.

"India is at the threshold of a major technological and industrial transformation. While industries such as semiconductors, aerospace, electric mobility, automation, clean energy and advanced manufacturing are expanding rapidly, there is a significant talent deficit in these sectors. At REVA University, we see this not as a challenge, but as an opportunity to prepare the next generation of future-ready professionals", said Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University.

Dr M Dhanamjaya, Registrar, spoke on the university's strong academic ecosystem and well-equipped hostel facilities that offer students a safe, comfortable and 'home away from home' environment.

Dr Shubha A, Dean, REVA Business School and Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies highlighted REVA University's innovative, industry-relevant and future-focused curriculum.

She said the university follows a multi-disciplinary approach across 21 schools with in-house curriculum designed through strong academic and industry inputs.

DH REVA University

Gaurav Yadav, Director – Admissions, said REVA University is steadily moving beyond multi-disciplinary education towards a trans-disciplinary learning model by integrating AI, innovation, research and inter-disciplinary learning across disciplines.

Among the major initiatives showcased were DivyaSree-supported centres of excellence focused on sustainable infrastructure, smart technologies, advanced manufacturing, urban innovation and 3D printing.

The university also highlighted future-focused programmes in mechatronics engineering and aerospace engineering with practical exposure in AI, robotics, UAVs, automation, avionics, intelligent mobility and aerospace technologies.

REVA University highlighted that the future is not 'core versus AI', but 'core with AI', with artificial intelligence being integrated across disciplines including engineering, management, commerce, healthcare, media and applied sciences to prepare students for an AI-enabled future. The university also showcased its industry-oriented B.Com in Corporate Finance and Analytics integrated with US-CMA, designed to equip students with expertise in finance, analytics, strategic decision-making and global career readiness.

REVA University further emphasised the growing importance of the School of Performing Arts and Indic Studies in preserving India's artistic heritage, and the School of Geopolitics and Public Policy in nurturing globally-aware policy thinkers.

The university also talked about scholarships across merit, sports, NCC, defence, differently-abled, sibling, referral and staff categories.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Bhojshala site a temple...

Bhojshala, from Page 1

The court asked the Centre and the ASI to take a decision for the purpose of administration and management of the affairs of the Bhojshala temple and Sanskrit learning.

The court said the Union government "may consider" representations of some of the petitioners to bring back the 'Pratima' (idol) of goddess Saraswati from London Museum and re-establish the same within the complex.

This order nullified the April 2003 ASI order that permitted Hindus to worship on Tuesdays and Muslims to offer namaz on Fridays.

The high court's order had a mention about the background and legal arguments surrounding the Ayodhya dispute as many petitioners referred to the Supreme Court judgment.

The court also asked the Madhya Pradesh government to consider a plea from the petitioners for allocation of a land in Dhar district for construction of a mosque.

"The state government may consider allotment of a suitable and permanent part of land in Dhar district to the Muslim community," the court said.

The court, in its judgment, said from the archaeological and historical facts it is "crystal clear that the building in question is a Hindu temple and place of learning of Sanskrit language".

"Reports from 1902-03 and thereafter classify the structure as an important historical and archaeological building, including Bhojshala Kamal Maula," the high court said.

The court also pulled up the ASI for "deliberate dereliction of duty".

The court further held that the statutory duty of the ASI before protecting a site is to ascertain the nature, character and original form of the place of worship.

"The historical literature, architectural features clearly indicate that Bhojshala Complex for learning Sanskrit was constructed by Raja Bhoj in the year 1034 AD much prior to the claim of construction of mosque by the other community i.e. 28.4.1935," HC said.

Following the verdict, Shahar Qazi Waqar Sadiq indicated that the Muslim side would appeal against the verdict in the Supreme Court after a thorough review of the full judgment.

The ruling followed a meticulous 98-day scientific survey by the ASI, which concluded that the existing structure was built using repurposed components from an earlier temple associated with King Bhoj of the Parmar dynasty.

During the proceedings, the Hindu side presented coins and inscriptions as proof of the site's origins as a Sanskrit learning centre. The Muslim side, represented by the Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society, challenged the ASI's findings as biased and argued for the site's status as a mosque.

The court also considered a third claim from the Jain community, which suggested the site was originally a medieval Jain temple.

Regarding the dispute on whether the idol at the temple was of Goddess Saraswati or Maa Ambika, the court opined that in India, Jainism and Hinduism are not distinct entities.

Petrol, diesel...

Fuel price, From Page 1

"Immediate impact on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation is likely around 15-20 bps in May-June 2026. So, we revise our FY27 forecast to 4.7%. There is no direct impact of this hike on the fiscal situation," it said.

"While fuel availability remains stable, the hike is likely to intensify inflationary pressures across the economy," Ajit Mishra, senior vice president at Religare Broking. Higher transportation and logistics costs could gradually push up prices of essential goods and services, Mishra added.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel take up operations to recover the bodies buried in the debris after the roof of a house caved in killing four people, at Moratagi village in Almel taluk of Vijayapura district on Friday.

The ready-to-harvest banana cultivated on three acres at Masuthi village in Kolhar taluk of Vijayapura was destroyed in the storm that pounded the region on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. DH PHOTOS

4 of family die in roof collapse as storm pounds north K'taka districts

BENGALURU, DHNS

A couple and two children died in their sleep after the ceiling of their house collapsed on them following heavy showers, at Moratagi village in Almel taluk of Vijayapura district in the small hours of Friday.

The deceased are: Gurunath Badiger (35), his wife Jyothi Badiger (28), their two children Kalamma (13) and Kirthi (9). Gurunath Badiger's mother Shantabai and his son Veeresh escaped unhurt in the incident.

The Badiger family was staying at a rented house next to their own house which was under renovation.

District Minister M B Patil expressed grief over the loss of four lives and announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh. He also assured that the educational expenses of the boy would be taken care of and that the compensation amount will be deposited in the bank in the name of the lone surviving member of the family.

Unseasonal rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday wreaked havoc on houses, banana plantations and power infrastructure in many north Karnataka districts, including Vijayapura, Belagavi, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Ballari districts.

The ready to harvest banana on over hundreds of acres was destroyed as gusty winds and heavy showers caused significant damage to plantations in Kolhar and Basavana Bagewadi taluks in Vijayapura district.

"Banana plantations on three acres were completely destroyed in the storm yesterday night. I had spent lakhs to cultivate bananas and was hoping to reap good yields. Also, the prices of bananas in the market are good compared to previous years. The overnight showers and gusty winds shattered my hopes. I have lost the ready-to-harvest banana ... I don't know what to do," rues Srishail Hangaragi, a banana grower from Masuthi in Kolhar taluk.

Tin roof sheets of several houses in Kolhar taluk were blown away in the storm.

Tree falls and uprooting of electricity poles were reported at several places in Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts. Several cattle heads were also perished in the said districts in lightning strikes.

A 60-year-old farmer was killed in a lightning strike at Jakanapalli village of Sedam taluk in Kalaburagi district late Thursday evening. The incident occurred when Ashappa Kampin was working at his farm.

In Davangere district, 12 houses were partially damaged and bananas grown on 79 acres were lost in the Thursday night storm.

Heavy rain, coupled with high-intensity winds, lashed parts of Karkala and Honnavar taluks in the coastal region.

Virajpet and surrounding areas in Kodagu district received a good spell of rain on Friday evening. The showers brought down the soaring temperatures in the hilly district.

Rainfall across Karnataka from today, max temperature dips in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

Districts across Coastal, South Interior and North Interior Karnataka are set to receive pre-monsoon showers starting May 16, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Light to moderate rainfall is forecast for one or two places over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada until May 21.

In North Interior Karnataka, light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers with gusts travelling at speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely at one or two places over Raichur, Yadgir, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Gadag, Koppal and Bagalkot on May 16. Dharwad and Gadag, along with these districts, are also expected to receive light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers on May 17. Dry weather will prevail in other districts, the IMD stated.

Between May 16 and 21, heavy rainfall or thundershowers with gusts travelling at speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely at one or two places over Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Shivamogga, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar. Light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers with gusts travelling at speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely at a few places over Ballari, Vijayanagar, Davangere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Mandya, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura and Kolar, the IMD said.

More than two weeks after a ferocious hailstorm struck Bengaluru, temperatures continue to dip below normal.

At 5.30 pm on Friday, maximum temperature at the Bengaluru City observatory dipped to 30.9°C, down 2.4°C from normal. However, minimum temperature rose to 23.2°C, an increase of 1.2°C. The HAL Airport recorded maximum temperature of 30.9°C, down 2.3°C from normal, while minimum temperature was just 0.3°C higher at 22°C, according to IMD data.

Temperatures in the coming days are expected to hover in the same range.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast May 16: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.4	20.8	06
Bidar	39.4	25	00
Vijayapura	38.5	25.5	00
Dharwad	36.6	21	0.8
Haveri	34.4	21.1	54.4
Kalaburagi	41.4	25.1	2.9
Raichur	41	27.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.3	21.7	54.6
Karwar	36.6	21.6	25.4
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.1	26.5	22.6

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.6	21.5	00
Bengaluru	34	23.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	35.4	21.3	0.3
Davangere	36.5	21	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	35.4	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	34.8	21	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	40.6	26.2	00
Kolkata	36.4	27.6	00
Mumbai	34.1	28	00
Chennai	36	28.9	00
Pune	38.6	25.7	00
Hyderabad	38.7	28.7	00
Th'puram	33.1	23.8	0.8

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or
Scan QR code to access booking form

14th Anniversary

Sunitha Phillips
15.11.1970 - 16.05.2012
I miss you every minute of every day. You will never truly be gone, I well hold you safe in my heart forever.
from Everloving Husband

SC rejects Darshan's bail plea in Renukaswamy murder case

'Not eligible for bail for one year, though trial is progressing slowly'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a petition filed by jailed Kannada actor Darshan for bail in the Renukaswamy murder case and ordered the holding of the trial in a day-to-day manner by first examining 60 important witnesses.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi said the petitioner is not eligible to obtain bail for one year, even though the trial is progressing slowly.

The court, however, directed that the applicant would be entitled to all the facilities inside the prison as per the jail manual. It also ordered that there is no need to keep the applicant in solitary confinement.

The bench also clarified that he would be entitled to move another bail application if there is no substantial progress in the trial.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra appeared for the state, while senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued for Darshan.

Seeking a status report of the trial, the apex court was informed that the present case is being taken up on every Monday and Tuesday exclusively by the in-charge Court (CCH-64) as the regular court (CCH-57) is vacant. The prosecution has examined 10 witnesses to date.

"The prosecution initially proposes to examine around 60 witnesses on a priority basis who are vital to indicate the role played by the accused persons," the report said.

Further, the prosecution has cited 272 witnesses in total, and proposed to examine around 150 witnesses to substantiate the case of the prosecution.

It was also submitted that 17 accused persons were represented by seven different advocates before the Trial Court.

As such, once the examination in chief of a witness is completed, the cross-examination is conducted for several days. Further, repetitive questions were posed to the witnesses regarding the subject matter already dealt with, thereby causing a delay in the recording of evidence.

Meanwhile, the jail authorities, in their separate response, said that Darshan and other co-accused were lodged in the central prison, Bengaluru and in order to ensure strict safety and security, other inmates were prevented from entering the corridor, and to avoid disturbances or security lapses.

It was also informed that from August 14, 2025 till May 5, 2026, Darshan had availed 70 interviews with his family and friends and made 73 phone calls. It was stated that he was allowed to meet his advocates for legal consultation regularly.

It was claimed that Darshan was being provided with all facilities, including basic ones, in accordance with the Karnataka Prison Rules, 1974 and the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Manuals, 2021.

In his writ petition, Darshan submitted that he has cumulatively spent one year in jail after the Supreme Court cancelled the bail on August 14, 2025.

As the apex court had earlier said, he should not get the five-star treatment in jail; he was denied the basic amenities otherwise provided to an undertrial prisoner, the counsel said.

It also stated that since the trial is likely to be a prolonged one, his incarceration, pending the entire trial, would also have an irreparably adverse impact on his livelihood and his right to carry on his trade and profession. As a successful actor, he was being signed on, on average, in about 2-3 movies each year.

Darshan, 48, was first arrested on June 11, 2024, in connection with the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, his fan and a native of Chitradurga.

According to the police, Renukaswamy had allegedly sent obscene messages to Darshan's friend, Pavithra Gowda, which enraged the actor.

Police investigation led to the arrest of actor Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and 15 other associates.

Cong govt's convention faces bus strike heat, advanced by a day

TUMAKURU, DHNS: The state government's Sadhana Samaveshan, a convention organised to mark its three years in office, will be held at the Junior College grounds in the city on May 19.

This development comes in the wake of the proposed indefinite strike call given by the state-owned road transport employees' union demanding 25% salary hike.

It is proposed to use more than 2,500 KSRTC buses to bring beneficiaries of various schemes and members of the public from different districts. However, if the transport employees' strike begins, there could be a shortage of buses, making it difficult for people to attend the convention. As a precautionary measure, preparations are being made to hold the convention a day earlier than originally scheduled.

Invitation cards have already been printed. The same invitations are now being used to invite people to attend the programme on May 19 instead of May 20.

"The programme has been rescheduled a day earlier to ensure that the transport employees' strike does not disrupt the event. The change has been made as per the directions of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," Home and District In-charge Minister G Parameshwara clarified.

TV shows prima facie violative of statutory provisions, says High Court

'Media narrative poses serious threat to petitioner's right to fair trial'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to examine certain digital/broadcast content about actor Darshan in relation to the Renukaswamy murder case.

The Kannada actor is in judicial custody as accused number 2 in the case.

While partly allowing the petition filed by the actor, Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum has further asked the ministries to act under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act by regulating, suspending, prohibiting or directing discontinuance of such content, if satisfied that they are violative of Rule 6 of the Programme Code framed under Act. "The material on record discloses prima facie violations of statutory provisions and judicial orders. The ongoing media narrative poses a serious threat to the petitioner's right to a fair trial under Article 21 of the constitution," the court said and directed the authorities to file a compliance report in 12 weeks.

The actor alleged a targeted media campaign against him on television channels and certain digital platforms. It is stated that even as the trial in the case is at a nascent stage, various TV channels and digital platforms are indulged in media-driven adjudication, disseminating speculative narratives, selectively leaked materials, and unverified allegations. It is also submitted that such content is continuing despite restraining orders passed by the civil courts and the high court not to publish/broadcast confidential material.

After perusing the material placed, the court said, "The material placed on record, particularly the clippings produced, unfortunately depict a disturbing trend wherein the broadcast media has gone to the extent of recreating courtroom proceedings, with only the face of the presiding Judge being masked, while the faces of the accused and counsel are openly displayed. Such programmes are telecast on every date of hearing, thereby converting pending judicial proceedings into a form of public spectacle."

Justice Magadum observed that such content amounts to a calculated media-driven adjudication, fostering a parallel narrative and engendering prejudicial pre-trial publicity. The court further said that material on record discloses violations of the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, the Contempt of Courts Act and the Information Technology Act and Rules.

"Freedom of speech is a cherished constitutional value; however, when it degenerates into media-driven adjudication, it ceases to be a safeguard of democracy and becomes a threat to it. The press is a watchdog, but when it assumes the role of judge, jury and executioner, the rule of law stands imperiled. Courts cannot permit the course of justice to be overshadowed by the glare of studio lights," Justice Magadum said.

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No: KSIC/PR/ITEMS-W/01/2026-27 15.05.2026

NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/Dealers/Contractors for the below detailed Items & work.

Sl. No.	Particulars	EMD (in Rs.)	Last date for uploading Tender	Technical Bids Opening Date
1.	**Tender** for Supply of Formic Acid-5,005 Kgs.	10,300/-	01.06.2026 by 03.00 p.m.	02.06.2026 @ 03.30 p.m.
	Supply of TATA Brand Soda Ash-5,200 Kgs.	5,000/-		
2.	**Tender** for Supply, Installation and commissioning of below machines at KSIC Unit: Silk Filature, T.Narasipura:		01.06.2026 by 03.00 p.m.	02.06.2026 @ 03.30 p.m.
	01 No. of Re-reeling Machine (40 Windows)	29,500/-		
	02 Nos. of Denier Scale Machine (Digital)	2,000/-		
	01 No. Jute Waste Drier Machine	7,000/-		
	02 Nos. Peeling Machine	4,500/-		

Tender documents, details of the Notification, schedule, terms & conditions can be downloaded from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal help desk - 080-46010000 /080-68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)

DIPR/CP/477/MAA/2026-27

Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE — A ramp to the purple economy.
BOOKS — Read the review of Karan Mahajan's new novel.
ART & PURSUITS — If your dog had a social media account...
TRAVEL — A 48-hour itinerary for Srinagar.
GENDER — The many complexities of love.
WELLNESS — Simple ways to add protein to your meals.

Follow Us

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
TOURS & TRAVELS DIVISION
MSIL House, # 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052. Phone: 080-22264021-25
MSIL/T&T/ 001 /2026-27 Dated 15.05.2026

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER

Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), a premier Government of Karnataka marketing organization is interested to select a supplier for **DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF A UNIFIED TOURISM BOOKING PLATFORM purely on REVENUE-SHARE MODEL BASIS.** Tender documents are available in the e-portal which can be downloaded from e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Interested parties may participate in the Tender through e-Portal **on or before 30.05.2026 up to 3.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tours & Travels Division)

KARNATAKA STATE HANDICRAFTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.45, 3rd Floor, KSHDC COMPLEX, M.G. Road,
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone :080-71204445 /71204446.
e-mail:gmpakshdcl@gmail.com, Website: **www.cauverycrafts.com**

TENDER REFERENCE NO.KSHDCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., (KSHDCL) invites e-tender under two cover tender procedures from eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-4 on e-procurement portal. Work pertains to Interior work for proposed Cauvery Emporium at KSHDC Head Office, Bengaluru as per the specification detailed in the notification. The tender notification details may be obtained through e-procurement mode by logging on to website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The date of commencement of access to tender documents **is 15.05.2026** and last date for submission of bids **is 15.06.2026**

Sd/- General Manager(P & A)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Contract for Hiring of Shamiyana and other Allied Items for Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura and ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/10/2026-27 dated: 27/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 12.37 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 25/05/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 29/05/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 29/05/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
PH: 080-22867369, E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com

Tender No.KSAMB/PROC-FD/Tender/543/2026-27 Dated: 15.05.2026

SHORT TERM e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bengaluru is inviting e-bidding through e-procurement portal from Nationalized Banks for placing of
(1) Rs.600.00 Crores for a duration of One Year and
(2) Rs.600.00 Crores (Rupees Six Hundred Crores Only) for Short Term duration of 91 days. The detailed information can be obtained from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal vide Indent No: **APMC/2026-27/ Auction 117.**
The last date for participation is **25.05.2026.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
KSAMB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/691/2026-27

MAHATMA GANDHI RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ UNIVERSITY

No. RDPRU 20 EST 2026 Date: 15-05-2026

PRESS NOTE

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, invites applications for recruitment of Temporary Full-Time Faculty/Project Fellow and Computer Programmer on Contract basis from eligible candidates for the academic year 2026-27. Applications in prescribed format along with their CV and supporting documents shall reach the Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Koushalya Vikas Bhavan, Grama Gangothri Campus, Nagavi, Gadag-582 103, on or before **22-05-2026**. For details of qualifications, date of interview and application etc, please visit the University website: **www.ksrdpru.ac.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – L13100TG1958GOI001674

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI No.: HO(COMMERCIAL)/COM-II(95)/2026-27/01 **Dated:** 16.05.2026

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites **Expression of Interest** through **NMDC Portal/e-mail/post/courier** from End use customers/ Plants & Traders for entering into **LONG TERM AGREEMENTS (LTAs) FOR SUPPLY OF IRON ORE PELLETS** from Donimalai Pellet Plant at Karnataka.

The detailed Notice Inviting EOI can be viewed and / or downloaded from **16/05/2026** from following website links:

1. NMDC Corporate website (under Latest From NMDC, Recent notices) - **https://www.nmdc.co.in**
2. Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP PORTAL) **http://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app**

The interested parties/firms are requested to submit their EOI online through **NMDC portal/post/courier**. The details of submission of EOI through online/ any mode given in Notice Inviting EOI. The interested parties/firms, may visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:

M.Sukumar, Senior Manager (Commercial), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad
Ph: +91-9963929995, email: **msukumar@nmdc.co.in, hocommercial@nmdc.co.in**

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd
Executive Director (Commercial)

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest, Ramanagara Sub - Division, Ramanagara.

No. : A.C.F./R.S.D./Tender/CR-02/2026-27 Date : 14-05-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Notice This is an information to the public, **that during the year 2026-27, in Ramanagara Division the Excavation of Elephant Proof Trenches at Channaptna Range and Sathanur Range,** The E-tender has been invited through the Karnataka Procurement Portal as per the Transparency rules.

The Tenderer can Participate till : 29-05-2026, 4.00 p.m. The Technical Bid will be Opening on : 30-05-2026 at 4.30 p.m. and the Financial Bid will be Opening on : 03-06-2026 at 5.00 p.m. In case if no Tenderer has been participated in the First Tender, the Second Tender Continuos till : 15-06-2026 at 4.00 p.m. (No Separate Tender Notice will be issued in this regard). The Technical Bid of the said Tender will be Opening on : 16-06-2026 at 4.30 p.m. and the Financial Bid will be Opening on : 19-06-2026 at 5.00 p.m.

Interested parties can place their tenders as per the terms and conditions of the tender. If any other information is required, visit the **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forest,
Ramanagara Sub-Division,
Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/54/Manipal/2026-27

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ- 561203

ಸಂ.: DPA/TP/CLU/02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.05.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ)	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾದ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂದೀಪ ಎನ್. ಬಿನ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ಗೌಡ ಎಸ್.ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀ ನಿತುನ್‌ಎನ್. ಬಿನ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ಗೌಡ ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ತೂಬಗೆರೆ	ತಪಸೀಪುರ	10/1ಎ2	00–18	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ
2.	ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂದೀಪ ಎನ್. ಬಿನ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ಗೌಡ ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ತೂಬಗೆರೆ	ತಪಸೀಪುರ	11	00–17	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜಿತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ, ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/ Tender /CR-1/2026-27/9 Date: 12.05.2026

Detailed e-Tender Notice Call – 2
(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Re Tender (Call – 2) is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having experience for implementation of Advance works towards formation of plantation and maintenance and maintenance of saplings under AOA-10, DDF-15, DDF ROOT STOCK-7, GUA-3, ECO Budget-2, MPCA-MPCA-6, NAGARAVANA-1, RSP-13 Schemes, total 57 works of Approx. total Rs. 3.26 crores in various places in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 19.05.2026 up to 5.20 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/54/05/227

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru

No. KST:KBS:COM/158/2026-27 DATE: 11.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No:01/2026-27

Applications are invited from interested parties through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP Portal) from 15.05.2026 to 04.06.2026 for selection of licensees for vacant / to be vacant at Terminal-01 Stall No. 17,18,24,26,44,46,48,58,59,78,118,127, Terminal-2 Stall No 113, Terminal-2A-Stall No 07, 12, Terminal-03 Stall No 02, Telephone Booth, Car & two wheeler parking (Terminal-3 entrance left and right side vacant space & Back side and beside the Indira canteen) at Kempegowda Bus Station. Stall no 01 (Open Sapce), 06, 08, 11,12, 11&12, 29, 30, 31, 33 (Lodging & Dormitory), at Mysuru Road Bus Station. Bengaluru and lower ground floor, upper ground floor, second floor and Overall bus station, as a Single Developer at Peenya Sri Basaweshawara Bus Station, Bengaluru. Tender-documents can be downloaded at KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be viewed at KSRTC website **ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in.** For more information please visit Division office, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, KSRTC, Bengaluru-560009 and Contact Nos. 7760990554 7760990557, KPP portal help Line 09240214000 / 09240214001, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Divisional Controller
KBS Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/684/NR/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Congress, finally, reads the Kerala verdict

Ten days after the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) registered a landslide electoral victory in Kerala, the party's high command chose V D Satheesan as the state's new Chief Minister. The uncertainty that prevailed before the high command picked Satheesan did the party no good. The announcement was delayed because the central leadership backed All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal, who did not contest the election, while the people clearly favoured Satheesan, who led the alliance to this resounding victory. By prioritising a coterie's interests above the party and the people, the leadership risked serious damage, given that Kerala is one of the Congress's few remaining pockets of influence. Left to themselves, the leaders would have decided against the overwhelming will and verdict of the people. This lack of political judgment is even more striking because Congress has lost states when it imposed chief ministers on the people or removed them from office against public opinion. Its final decision is being hailed as a victory of consensus and the spirit of internal democracy, but the credit should go to the positions taken by the public and the allied parties, the residual good sense of some leaders, and a media consistently critical of this post-results power play. It must be said that even before the euphoria of a massive victory settles, the Congress leadership has lost some credibility.

The party's endorsement of the people's choice for CM came after an extended phase of uncertainty

Satheesan was the face of the party and the UDF in the elections. He is not a dynast and is the first from his family to join politics. A leader who rose from the grassroots, the first-time Chief Minister has about three decades of political experience. He is seen by a large section of the cadre as a principled leader who would not cede space to communal interests. Satheesan is also the unlikely politician with a book: a voracious reader with a range of interests.

The new Chief Minister will face multiple challenges in office. Financially, Kerala has just managed to stay afloat, while resisting the Centre's unfriendly policies. The government will need a substantial revenue thrust to implement the five guarantee schemes announced during the campaign. The Lok Bhavan can be expected to be at odds with the government on many fronts. Satheesan may also face opposition from the party's MLAs and even ministers, given the circumstances of his appointment. The high command must ensure that he gets the full backing in what could also be a crucial term for the party's national footprint.

Tree felling exposes flawed priorities

The renewed felling of 233 trees in Ballari for road-widening is more than a local environmental issue. It reflects a deeper policy failure in Karnataka's approach to development – one that increasingly views mature trees as obstacles rather than vital urban infrastructure. What makes this particularly disturbing is not merely the scale of the proposed destruction, but the manner in which it began. Trees were reportedly felled during the night of April 24 without permission, before police and forest officials intervened to halt the exercise after 25 trees had already been cut down. Separate criminal cases have since been registered against Public Works Department (PWD) officials and contractors. Yet, despite the legal and public backlash, efforts to resume the felling continue.

This episode stands in stark contrast to the vision once championed by former Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde, under whose leadership the state consciously invested in avenue plantations and green highways. Roadside trees were treated not as ornamental additions, but as ecological assets essential for shade, temperature regulation, and public well-being. Today, however, the focus appears to have shifted from social forestry to project-driven felling. While the Forest Department has suggested alternative engineering solutions, including remodelling road shoulders to preserve the trees, PWD officers argue that retaining them would obstruct drainage systems, pedestrian pathways, electricity infrastructure, and road signage. Around the world, and even in parts of Chandigarh and Lutyens' Delhi, planners increasingly adopt "design-around" solutions such as split carriageways and permeable pavements that protect mature root systems instead of treating tree felling as the default option. This is especially important in Ballari, one of Karnataka's hottest districts. The removal of large roadside trees could intensify the urban heat island effect and sharply increase surface temperatures.

The incident in Ballari underlines the steep, unchecked ecological costs of project-driven development

The controversy also raises troubling legal questions. Under the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, large-scale felling requires statutory scrutiny and public consultation. Whether such processes were meaningfully followed before 233 trees were marked for destruction remains unclear. While the PWD has offered to cover the cost of compensatory afforestation, the Supreme Court has repeatedly observed that planting five or ten saplings for every tree cut is inadequate. A sapling cannot immediately replace the oxygen output, biodiversity value, or microclimatic cooling provided by a 50-year-old tree. This tree-felling controversy must therefore compel Karnataka to rethink its development priorities. True progress lies not in widening roads at any ecological cost, but in designing infrastructure that respects and preserves natural assets built over generations.

IN DEFENCE OF DISSENT

Eco concerns don't stall real development

Branding environmental activism as anti-development further weakens safeguards in an age of climate anxieties

BHARGAVI S RAO

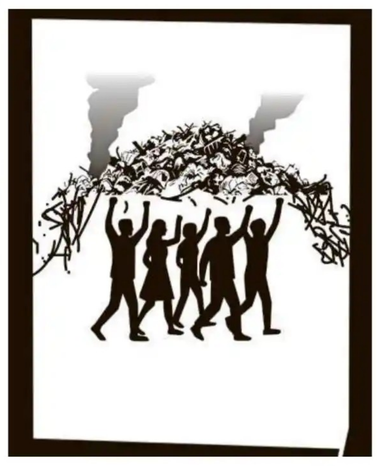
The Supreme Court of India, on May 11, 2026, hearing a plea regarding the Pipavav port in Gujarat, remarked, "Show us even a single project in this country where these so-called environmental activists have said that we welcome this project." The statement struck a nerve among many citizens, researchers, community leaders, and environmental and social justice stewards across the country. Such criticism is not new, but that it came from India's highest court, dismissing their decades of work in a country that is witness to the world's worst environmental crime, was shocking. Moreover, if one thinks about it, every city, town, and village in the country today has stories that disprove this accusation.

In Bengaluru, for instance, if it were not for local communities, waste workers, citizen groups, and environmental activists approaching courts repeatedly over the years, the IT/BT city would have drowned in its own waste. If even a small percentage of the city segregates waste today, it is because these ordinary people did what they should do under the Constitution.

Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution states that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen "to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures." Moreover, the Supreme Court has linked this duty to the right to a clean environment under Article 21, asserting that environmental protection is essential to the right to life.

The film *Waste and the City*, made by Teepoi films, captures this, and it is certainly not about people opposing development. Around 2012, Bengaluru was facing a severe crisis, as local communities in Mavallipura, having borne the brunt of the landfill menace since the early 2000s, refused to accept any more of the city's waste being illegally and unscientifically dumped in their village. Mountains of mixed garbage that were dumped resulted in unbearable stench, contaminated groundwater, gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses, cancers, and kidney failures. The destruction of agro-pastoral land had wrecked their lives and livelihoods. Garbage fires became common. Moreover, the city's waste system was visibly collapsing.

It was environmental groups, researchers, and the affected villagers who brought these issues into courtrooms through public interest litigation. They questioned why a rapidly growing global city could not manage its waste responsibly. They challenged the indiscriminate dumping of mixed waste. The Karnataka High Court, which heard the case for over a decade, examined the problem, systematically issued interim orders, and eventually directed the city towards segregation at source and the adoption of decentralised waste management systems. The now-familiar "Two Bins and One



Bag" framework emerged through these interventions and sustained citizen pressure.

Today, when households separate wet and dry waste, when apartments discuss composting, when dry waste collection centres operate across the city, or when conversations about circular economies emerge in policy spaces, or when bio-mining of legacy waste has begun in places such as the Mavallipura landfill, we are witnessing the outcomes of struggles led by people who now may be referred to as "anti-development." Without those interventions, Bengaluru's waste crisis would likely have spiralled further into a public health disaster. The framing of people who raise valid questions about environmental issues as enemies of development is deeply disturbing.

Local communities in India have often stepped in precisely where governance systems failed. They have brought up issues long before institutions acknowledged them. They have flagged critical information far earlier than any academic institution. Their lived experiences have often far outweighed scientific evidence, too. Were those who raised these concerns anti-development? Or were they among the few questioning insatiable consumption-based development and holding a mirror to the tech city?

This differentiation is important. Contemporary public discourse reduces development to highways, airports, ports, industrial corridors, and urbanisation. Any logical questioning of these is characterised as a blockade. It is important to break down the word "development" and ask if it means clean air, water, soil, good nutrition and health, access to education, healthcare, mobility, and democratic participation for all.

A dangerous ruse

The questions raised by people, in fact, are only based on the very environmental principles often highlighted by the Supreme Court. Especially those of the precautionary principle, the principle of intergenerational equity, the principle of natural justice, and others.

The stories of environmental litigation from across the country have frequently strengthened democracy itself. Many landmark judgments in use today emerged when citizens approached the courts after administrative systems collapsed. Courts have always been the last beacon of hope when everything else failed. This is especially important in a country like India, where communities at risk often bear the heaviest environmental burdens. Landfills, for instance, are rarely located within cities, beside elite, upper-class, upper-caste neighbourhoods.

The Bengaluru waste story is highly intertwined. It was not just about landfills; it was about the burden on peri-urban communities, segregation, recycling, public health, the condition of the sanitation workers, and more. People demanded processes that reduced the ecological damage and created a just and equitable society. Never the language of 'anti-development.'

The climate crisis has already made life extremely difficult in the subcontinent. With the weakening of environmental laws and painting those who ask questions as obstacles, we are treading a dangerous path.

The Bengaluru story highlights the importance of people questioning. They refused to accept the endless dumping. Citizens came together, and they organised. Communities protested. Environmentalists researched. Lawyers argued. Waste workers mobilised. And courts intervened. That is not anti-development. That is how courts in a constitutional democracy are expected to function. Hearing citizens when institutions fail, and by protecting the rights of the most vulnerable.

(The writer is an independent researcher and educator)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Rooting for the underdog

We seem to admire those who fight the odds, even when they are villains

SUNIL FURTADO

'Let's go over there,' my mother would say as she walked my brother and me to an idle stall at the annual school fête in the late 1980s. School fêtes are organised to generate funds to meet shortfalls in renovation, repair or, at that time, free book or uniform distribution or the midday meal programme. Some stalls barely showed any activity, possibly due to a poor win-to-coupon-price ratio. We didn't win much in these stalls, but my mother seemed happy to have cheered the stall team's dispirited faces.

We come across many Goliath-versus-David situations in fiction as well. A strong individual or country fighting against a weaker person or nation. This is especially true when the odds are stacked against the weaker person, as in movies like Marcus Aurelius in *Gladiator*, Jamal in *Slumdog Millionaire* or *Chak De! India*, where a fallen hockey player coaches an underdog hockey team. Didn't we enjoy India's run and victory in the 1983 Cricket World Cup?

Some of us feel for each of the villains in the *Batman* movie series – The Penguin, The Joker, Bane or Two-Face. They have been wronged by society in some way in their lives, and villainy is their way of fighting back. Many of us empathised with Vijay Verma in *Deewar*, played by Amitabh Bachchan. We follow him and his brother, played by Shashi Kapoor, from a background of poverty where one becomes a powerful underworld don and the other an upright police officer. We feel sorry for Vijay Verma for the discrimination and retribution he faced as a child for his minor offences and for his father's deeds. We empathise when he rationalises his achievements, which take him to a position of strength from the poverty he knew.

As for me, I go for a local brand of cold drink when given a choice of multinational brands. Recently, when a national milk co-operative tried to take over the state milk co-operative society in Karnataka, I, like many others, expressed solidarity by purchasing products from the state co-operative. Sometimes shopping at the neighbourhood grocery store helps promote local businesses which compete against mega-corporate stores – both offline and online.

Why do we root for the underdog? It could be because we empathise with their struggles and at times admire the grit and determination of that person or organisation against all odds.

We live in an era of social media validation and digital influence. In this competitive world, we tend to root for someone who satisfies our desires for fairness and equality. We also like someone who can rise above the norms and fight against entitlement, bullying, nepotism or sycophancy. Or someone who is beholden in the form of the underdog.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High command culture hurts Congress

It took the Congress Party a full 11 days to name a chief minister in Kerala after its resounding victory in the recent Assembly elections. Such dithering and indecisiveness have become hallmarks of the Congress after the rare victories it has secured in recent years. While V D Satheesan finally made the cut, the party would have done well to avoid the confusion and delay from being played out in full public view. The indecision stemmed from matters being left to the high command. One wonders why, if not to salve the egos of a few leaders. It would be far better to allow the local party leaders and elected legislators to choose their own leader. If the Congress leadership persists with the muddle-headedness seen in Kerala, it may soon lose relevance altogether or, worse, face a vertical split akin to the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu.
S Kamat, Mysuru

Strong case for reforms

Apropos 'Reform must insulate policing from politics' (May 15), the suspension of more than 700 police personnel in the state over the past two years reveals a sorry state of affairs and strengthens the case for police reforms. The police department needs a thorough overhaul, with reforms aimed at insulating it from undue political intervention. Several media reports indicate that police personnel are often deployed for duties unrelated to policing. The department must strive to maintain its integrity by focussing on its core responsibilities without succumbing to external pressures.
S Sundaresh, Bengaluru

The broader question

The cancellation of the NEET-UG exam should encourage us to consider the broader implications. NEET only selects those who can score the highest in multiple-choice questions. It does not test the aspirants' other skills that are important to becoming good doctors: they not only need to have commitment and compassion but also good interpersonal skills to understand different types of people and also kinaesthetic abilities to conduct intricate surgical procedures. We must change the way we educate our children.
Ali Khwaja, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We really did the ceasefire (with Iran) at the request of other nations. I wouldn't have really been in favour of it, but we did it as a favour to Pakistan.

Donald Trump, US President

Even in the world of make-believe there have to be rules. The parts have to be consistent and belong together.

Daniel Keyes

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Plato's lessons for India's democracy

Polarising narratives and performative outrage increasingly shut out reason and democratic debate

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

In *The Republic*, the Greek philosopher Plato did not reject freedom or public participation. His anxiety lay elsewhere. He feared that democracy, if detached from reason and moral restraint, could degenerate into a theatre of impulses, where emotion triumphs over wisdom and spectacle overwhelms sober judgment. More than two millennia later, Plato's apprehensions appear strikingly relevant to contemporary India, the world's largest democracy.

India's democratic journey has been remarkable. Despite a staggering diversity of language, caste, religion, and region, the country has sustained electoral democracy. Universal adult franchise, a vibrant press, an independent judiciary, and periodic elections have given citizens an extraordinary voice in public life. Yet Plato's warning invites us to ask a deeper question: can democracy survive merely on the mechanics of voting, or does it also require a culture of reasoned citizenship?

Plato believed that citizens could easily be swayed by persuasive rhetoric rather than informed understanding. In present-day India, this concern resonates powerfully in the age of raucous television debates, viral social media posts, and algorithm-driven outrage. Public discourse is increasingly shaped by emotional appeals, political branding, and manufactured narratives. Complex economic or social questions are often reduced to simplistic binaries that inflame passions rather than encourage reflection.

The philosopher feared that leaders might rise not because of wisdom, moral discipline or long-term vision, but because they mastered the art of playing to the gallery. In many democracies, including India, personality-driven politics has begun to overshadow institutional politics. Electoral campaigns are fuelled by charisma, image-building, and the stirring of popular passions. Public attention is captured not by policy detail but by spectacle – grandstanding, symbolic gestures, and relentless media coverage. Plato would perhaps argue that democracy becomes fragile when governance turns into continuous performance.

Another aspect of Plato's critique concerns the decline of "public reason." He worried that citizens, driven by personal desires and loyalties to their groups, might ignore the greater good of society. India today often witnesses sharp polarisation along ideological, religious, and social lines. Instead of deliberation, there is frequent suspicion and hostility. Social media ecosystems deepen this fragmentation by trapping people within echo chambers where they hear only opinions that reinforce existing prejudices. Rational debate becomes difficult when disagreement itself is treated as betrayal.

Plato also stressed the importance of education in preserving a healthy polity. For him, education was not merely the accumulation of information but the cultivation of ethical judgment and intellectual discipline. While literacy and technological access have expanded dramatically in India, civic education has not kept pace. A democracy cannot thrive when citizens are overwhelmed by misinformation and propaganda, leaving public opinion vulnerable to manipulation through fear, anger, and falsehoods.

Rising above populism

Yet Plato's relevance to India is not limited to criticism alone. His philosophy also illuminates the enduring tension between democracy and expertise. He debunked the idea that every opinion carried equal weight in matters of governance. His central concern remains important: should governance be driven purely by popular sentiment, or should it also be guided by knowledge, competence, and ethical restraint?

This question acquires urgency in an era where policy issues – climate change, economic inequality, artificial intelligence, national security, and public health – have become extraordinarily complex. Democracies require leaders whose normative judgment enables them to balance public expectations with informed decision-making. India's challenge lies in ensuring that democratic participation does not descend into impulsive majoritarianism or short-term populism.

India's democratic experience has empowered millions who were historically excluded because of caste, class or gender. Democracy in India is not merely a political arrangement; it is also an instrument of social justice and dignity. Plato, perhaps, did not fully anticipate the capacity of ordinary citizens to make sound collective decisions when democratic institutions are strong and inclusive.

Nevertheless, his warnings about demagoguery, manipulation, and the corrosion of reason remain profoundly relevant. Indian democracy stands at a crucial juncture where technological acceleration, political polarisation, and media sensationalism threaten the quality of public discourse. Elections alone cannot guarantee democratic health. Democracy also requires humility, patience, institutional integrity, and a citizenry capable of critical thinking.

Plato's relevance lies in making us reflect on the moral foundations of democratic life. A republic survives not only through constitutions and ballots but through the character of its citizens and leaders. When politics becomes dominated by noise, spectacle, and tribal passions, democracy risks losing its ethical centre. But when citizens value truth over propaganda, dialogue over hostility, and wisdom over mere popularity, democracy renews itself.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

Rules meet resistance

SHEMIN JOY
DH NEWS SERVICE

The May 9 evening saw workers rising in unison to burn copies of rules on four Labour Codes across the country. Only hours before, the rules and 29 related notifications were published in the gazette, setting in motion the full operationalisation of the contentious Codes.

The Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 had a tumultuous run, with the last three being passed amid an Opposition boycott of parliamentary proceedings in September 2020.

The operationalisation of the contentious Codes, which the Opposition and 10 central trade unions oppose, was dependent on the union government notifying the rules, and it came a few days ago, after the results of the latest round of Assembly elections. The draft rules were notified on December 31 last year.

As soon as the rules notified on May 8 were publicised in the gazette the next day, Opposition-linked trade unions were up in arms, especially highlighting certain omissions, like criteria for calculating minimum wages, which in the draft had included the well-established formula.

The formula for fixing minimum wage suggested in the draft was linked to the net intake of 2,700 calories per day per consumption unit and 66 metres of clothing per year per standard working-class family, among other things. But it was missing the final rules, which said it shall be fixed on a day-to-day basis, keeping in view the criteria which shall be "separately specified by the Central Government by special or general order".

A national floor wage, which acts as a mandatory baseline that prohibits any state from setting minimum wages lower, will be decided by the Centre in consultation with an advisory board and states. A normal working day will be of eight hours, having a weekly cap of 48 hours, and a social security fund will be established for the unorganised sector and gig workers, the rules noted.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, a former Labour Minister in the UPA government, was among those who highlighted the dropping of the "specific criteria" for calculating minimum wages using calorie intake, clothing needs, rent and fuel costs, among others. He warned that the minimum wages would be set, not according to a set of guidelines and norms, but according to the arbitrary whims of the Modi government, resulting in lower minimum wages.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya defended the Codes, saying the new legal framework provides equal wages for equal work to both men and women. Employment will be generated only when industrialists create wealth and pay taxes, he adds.

Concerns were also raised by several sections about the new salary structure, where basic salary must be 50% or more of the total remuneration, creating trouble for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The insistence on digital compliance could squeeze MSMEs, some argued.

The CPI(M)-affiliated Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) argues that the Codes would snatch almost all rights and entitlements of workers. It claimed that basic rights related to defined working conditions, including working hours, minimum wages and any form of collective expressions of protests like strikes, are being "snatched away together with atrocious and vindictive punitive measures against any collective dissent by the workers".

"In essence, the Labour Codes are a blueprint to impose conditions of virtual slavery on the working people in the interests of the corporate or employers' class," the CITU said.

The trade unions point to the recent crackdown on workers in Noida in the Delhi-NCR. The workers were protesting against low pay and demanding better working conditions while opposing the Codes.

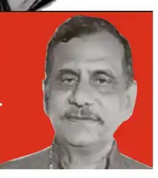
The protests by the workers were also reported from Lucknow and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Manesar, Faridabad and Sonipat in Haryana, Alwar and Bharatpur in Rajasthan, Rudrapur, Haridwar and Haldwani in Uttarakhand, Pithampur in Madhya Pradesh and Bhatinda and Mandi Gobindgarh in Punjab since April.

LABOUR CODES
29 labour laws were consolidated into 4 Labour Codes.
The government says the Labour Codes streamline compliance, modernise outdated laws, and protect workers' rights
Code on Wages, 2019:
Strengthens workers' rights and simplifies wage-related compliance for employers
Industrial Relations Code, 2020:
Simplifies laws on trade unions, employment conditions, and industrial dispute settlement
Code on Social Security, 2020:
Extends social security to unorganised, gig, and platform workers with digital compliance systems
Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:
Safeguards worker rights and eases regulation
The four Labour codes were made effective on November 21, 2025, and the rules were notified on May 8 and 9, 2026.
What do the Labour Codes promise?
Statutory right to all workers for minimum wages, timely payment of wages
Extends social security to organised, unorganised, gig, and platform workers
ESI coverage for establishments having more than 10 employees on a mandatory basis
EPF provisions to apply to all establishments employing 20 or more employees
Social Security Fund for unorganised, gig, and platform workers
Safe working conditions
Annual health check-up and issuance of appointment letters to all employees
Workers' Re-Skilling Fund for retrenched workers
Women can work all shifts with consent and safeguards
The definition of Inter-State Migrant Worker has been expanded to include contractor-employed and self-migrated workers
Trade Unions demand...
Withdrawal of anti-worker Labour Codes
Immediate talks with trade unions
Convening of the Indian Labour Conference
Release of all arrested workers
Minimum monthly wage of Rs 26,000
Strict 8-hour working hours

"The Labour Codes, which benefit only the PM's industrial friends, are the greatest setback for workers' rights since Independence."
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress President

"The Labour Codes strike at the heart of the workers' interests and aims to enslave workers to squeeze them more brutally."
ELAMARAM KAREEM
General Secretary, CITU

"The Four Labour Codes are designed to be dynamic and future-ready, addressing the emerging realities of the labour market."
RAVINDRA HIMTE
General Secretary, BMS



Workers' woes remain unaddressed

KINGSHUK SARKAR AND SANTOSH MEHROTRA

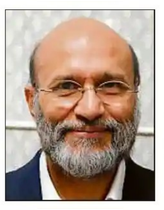
The Government of India has notified the Rules to implement the four labour codes, which were enacted in 2019 and 2020. The rules will make the implementation of the codes possible in practice.

The enactment of the four labour codes will not fundamentally change labour law administration. The four labour codes amalgamate 29 existing labour laws. The majority of provisions in the existing laws were retained, and certain provisions were modernised and updated. In certain cases, the safeguards protecting the interests of the working class were lowered in the new codes. Trade unions and scholars ventilated their grievances, and workers protested. One expectation was that certain regressive elements would be addressed by the rules.

The rules to implement the Code on Wages have given a vague definition of 'floor wage' and have not clarified how it differs from minimum wage. Also, they did not lay down the ground rules for setting minimum wages. The present convention of taking three units for a four-member family is likely to continue. This implies the continuation of gender discrimination, as female members are given 0.8 weightage vis-à-vis one for male members.

Further, the rules provide that the hourly wage would be determined by dividing the daily wage by eight. Conceptually, this is a flawed approach because, in our informal economy, workers often work part-time. The hourly wage should be determined based on the 8-hour time rate, as the worker might not find work in the remaining hours. Internationally, the hourly minimum wage is computed independently of the daily wage. This becomes important because of the millions of domestic and gig or platform workers.

The Social Security Code Central Rules do not make any attempt to demystify the employer-employee relationship in gig work. Gig and platform workers remain self-employed and part of the unorganised labour force. The rules are silent about the mandatory insurance for gratuity payment mentioned in the code. Insurance could be a safeguard for workers suffering from non-payment of gratuity. The modalities for such insurance should be clearly laid out in the rules, but that is absent. The absence of social security defines informality globally; 90% of Indian workers are informal.



The Industrial Relations Code Central Rules say that, in the case of a single registered trade union, a minimum 30% membership is required for recognition. So, in a large establishment, smaller registered trade unions cannot be recognised. This makes it impossible for a small or new trade union to emerge. The bargaining power of trade unions has been in decline over the past four decades. The rules also fail to clarify the engagement of fixed-term employees. They do not specify the exact duration required to qualify for FTE status, leaving the provision vulnerable to exploitation.

The rules for the Occupational Safety and Health Working Conditions Code provide for safety and welfare provisions for occupations listed in the code. However, welfare provisions are missing (e.g. medical/housing facilities for plantation workers). The rules do not specify the activities in which contract labour can be engaged. This is significant because India has witnessed increasing use of contract labour in core activities, too, which is prohibited. There is still no clarity on what constitutes a core activity.

The notification of the rules heralds the implementation of the Labour Codes almost six years after they were enacted. But they belie any hope of mitigating the adverse impact of certain regressive aspects of the codes.

(Kingshuk Sarkar is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Goa Institute of Management, Goa, and Santosh Mehrotra is ex-Professor, JNU, and Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath, UK)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

The environmental cost of AI

From overheating chips to depleted water tables, challenges presented by Artificial Intelligence infrastructure boom will only grow, writes B K Singh

If the architects of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) boom are right, we are going to face shortages of energy and water. Developers are increasingly worried that data centres will eventually require more energy and land than are available on Earth; the giant computing facilities that power AI may have to be located beyond the planet itself.

Last November, Google announced that it is working on a project called Suncatcher, with prototype satellite launches planned for early 2027 to test whether AI hardware can survive and function in orbit. Google's Chief Executive Officer, Sundar Pichai, has said he expects space-based data centres to become a relatively normal way of building infrastructure.

Modern AI is built on vast neural networks trained on trillions of numbers, words, and images, enabling models to recognise patterns or even predict the next word or number. This is based on repeatedly processing colossal datasets using graphics processing units (GPUs). AI accelerators pack billions of microscopic transistors that generate heat when electricity passes through them. The chips, originally designed for video game graphics, are now AI workhorses capable of performing thousands of mathematical operations simultaneously — at the expense of enormous power consumption. From basic physics, we know that the heat produced must be continuously removed to prevent GPU failure.

AI-GENERATED IMAGE: FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Toll on water and power

Traditional data centres manage around 12 kW per rack, while AI data centres are seeing dramatic increases, with current ultra-high-density racks consuming 85 kW per rack and projected to rise to 200-250 kW as AI workloads grow more demanding. Water consumption can be gauged by a simple benchmark: according to OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman, a single, simple ChatGPT query by anyone consumes approximately 0.32 ml of water, though independent researchers place the figure higher, at around 1.2 ml when off-site water use is included. When video and images are considered, this requires more water and power. Multiplied across billions of queries per day, the aggregate is substantial.

Data centres also typically operate between 21 and 24 degrees Celsius; if located in warmer or cooler places, additional energy is needed to maintain this range. These facilities are equipped with intricate cooling systems. Removing heat from a system requires energy. In most data centres, heat is siphoned off using water-based cooling technology. Air is blown through water-soaked pads or towers — a technology known as evaporative cooling — and in the process, substantial water evaporates into the surrounding atmosphere. This water returns to Earth only through natural precipitation. Evaporative cooling cannot be deployed in water-scarce areas, nor in the orbital data centres now being explored.

Environmental cost

The environmental cost of AI is already substantial. A 2019 study by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst found that training a single large AI model can emit more than 626,000 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent — roughly the lifetime emissions of five average cars. This figure, though now several years old, illustrates the scale of the problem.

The use of energy from fossil fuels only aggravates global warming. Data centres currently consume approximately 1-1.5% of global electricity; according to the International Energy Agency's base-case projections, this share is expected to rise to around 2.3% by 2030 and 2.6% by 2035, with a high-growth scenario pushing the 2035 figure to around 4.4%.

In addition, mining operations for batteries, semiconductors, and rare earths cause significant ecological damage and displace communities. It is essential that data centres use renewables and non-polluting energy sources such as nuclear, wind, and solar.

India too is set to accelerate data centre investments over the next two years to match rising global demand for AI, cloud computing, and digital services. Though it presents opportunities, it underscores mounting challenges for power availability and cooling. Electricity consumption across all data centres in India is projected to reach 600 terawatt hours in 2026 — approximately 14% above 2025 levels. Google has announced a $15 billion investment over the next five years to establish its first AI hub in the country, located in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The way forward

Technologies are emerging to use liquid and immersion cooling instead. Waste heat is also recoverable as a by-product, usable across a variety of industrial and agricultural applications. Shifting to these emerging technologies is essential for reducing the water footprint of AI. Gallium-based liquid metals and carbon nano-fluids have been found to be durable and efficient in heat transfer. Direct-to-chip liquid cooling removes heat at the chip level by placing a cold plate on the chip and circulating liquid through it, transferring heat via thermal conduction in single-phase and via liquid vaporisation in two-phase systems.

Immersion cooling is another method in which an entire server is submerged in a container filled with dielectric coolant. Liquid cooling — especially direct-to-chip — is well-suited to high-density computing environments, offering superior thermal conductivity and cost-effectiveness.

Finally, though not the right solution, big technology companies have pledged to transition to net-zero. Google has ramped up the use of green energy and is making its AI data centres more efficient, pushing for net-zero by 2030. Microsoft is targeting net-zero carbon and plans to use liquid cooling to reduce evaporative water consumption by 2030. Meta has also pledged to achieve net-zero by 2030 through cleaner power and tighter controls on cooling and water use. Amazon's net-zero pledge is comparatively delayed, with a target of 2040; to cover its expanding AI and cloud loads, it is contracting large-scale nuclear, solar, and wind power.

(The author is a former Head of Forest Force, Karnataka and a science communicator)

DID YOU KNOW?

A silk material to help 6G technology

Researchers from Imperial College London, University of Michigan and Tufts University have developed a new method for turning silk into strong, transparent, plastic-like materials that could play a role in future 6G communication systems. The study, published in the journal Nature Sustainability, demonstrates how natural silk fibres can be fused under heat and pressure while preserving their crystalline structure, giving the resulting material unusual strength and optical properties.

The researchers say the material can manipulate terahertz light frequencies, a feature considered important for next-generation 6G networks. Terahertz waves are expected to enable data transmission speeds far beyond those of current 5G systems, especially in high-capacity wireless communications. Unlike many existing biomaterials, the silk composite remains largely transparent to terahertz light while also being able to rotate or polarise it, potentially creating new methods of encoding wireless signals.

The manufacturing process involves heating silk fibres to temperatures between 257°F and 419°F and compressing them under extremely high pressures. During the process, water evaporates and the disordered regions of the silk fuse together without damaging the fibres' crystalline sections. Scientists say this allows the material to retain silk's natural combination of flexibility and durability.

Tests showed the material was lightweight yet stronger than many conventional plastics and some metal alloys. In puncture tests, it performed comparably to carbon-fibre-reinforced polymers commonly used in aircraft and automotive structures.

Researchers also highlighted potential sustainability benefits. Conventional silk recycling methods often require dissolving fibres in chemical solvents, consuming large amounts of water and energy. The new technique instead relies mainly on boiling silk to remove sericin, the natural protein coating around fibres, before pressing them into sheets. The process could help recycle short or damaged silk fibres that would otherwise be discarded as waste.

Beyond telecommunications, the team believes the material could eventually be used in medical implants, protective equipment, packaging and lightweight industrial components. Researchers are now exploring large-scale manufacturing and seeking commercial partners to bring the technology to market.

- Phys.org

CBI arrests Chemistry prof in Pune for NEET paper leak

'Kingpin' Kulkarni was on panels for setting question paper

NEW DELHI, PTI

Uttar Pradesh Youth Congress workers raise slogans during a protest against the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026, in Lucknow, on Friday. PTI

Three days into its probe, the CBI on Friday claimed it had cracked the NEET paper leak case with the arrest of a Pune-based professor, the "source" of the leak of the paper.

Professor P V Kulkarni, a domain expert in chemistry from Latur who has for years served on panels involved in setting the NEET question paper, was taken into custody from his residence in Pune, officials said.

"P V Kulkarni has been arrested at Pune after thorough interrogation," a CBI spokesperson said.

Exploiting his privileged access to confidential material, Kulkarni hosted special coaching classes at his house in the last week of April and dictated to his students questions, options and answers which appeared in the NEET-UG paper on May 3.

"During the last week of April, 2026, he had mobilised students, with the help of another accused namely Manisha Waghmare who was arrested on May 14 by CBI," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Students allegedly paid several lakh rupees to attend the sessions where they wrote the questions down in their notebooks and later "tallied exactly" with the actual NEET-UG paper conducted on May 3, the spokesperson said.

CBI teams probing the case have found the actual source of the leakage of the chemistry paper, as well as the middlemen involved in mobilising the students who paid several lakhs of rupees to attend the special coaching classes where these question banks were dictated and discussed, she said.

"In the last 24 hours, CBI has also conducted searches at several locations across the country and seized several incriminating documents, electronic gadgets and mobile phones," the spokesperson said.

A detailed forensic and technical analysis of the seized items is going on, she said.

Ex-UGC chief for CBT mode

Former UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar on Friday backed the Centre's decision to shift NEET to the computer-based mode in the coming years, saying the current pen-and-paper format involving lakhs of candidates leaves "weak points" in the supply chain, reports PTI.

Coaching institutes fined for misleading ads

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed penalties of Rs 10 lakh on Motion Education Pvt Ltd and Rs 5 lakh on Career Line Coaching (CLC), in Rajasthan's Sikar for publishing misleading advertisements about JEE and NEET results.

The regulator found that both institutes concealed crucial information about the courses attended by students, whose success stories were prominently featured in their promotional campaigns, violating the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

In orders passed by CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Anupam Mishra, the institutes were held guilty of unfair trade practices and infringement of consumer rights, a statement from the Central Consumer Protection Authority said.

Manipur: 28 Naga, Kuki hostages swapped; 10 untraced

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

At least 28 out of the 38 people belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities, who had been held hostage at several locations in conflict-torn Manipur following the killing of four persons on Wednesday, were released on Friday.

At least 10 Kuki persons, however, are still untraced, with the government saying "all-out efforts" by the security forces were underway for their safe release.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Manipur — the apex body of Kuki groups in the state — said at least 14 Kuki-Zo men were still being held hostage.

There are also reports that two of the Kuki victims managed to flee, and a minor was released on Thursday night. However, there has been no official confirmation from the police or the government about this.

Women released after being allegedly held captive by Kuki groups, on Friday. PTI

A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Friday said that at least 28 persons "detained" near Leilon Vaiphei and Saparmeina villages in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi and Naga-dominated Senapati districts were released following sustained efforts by the government, security forces, and civil society organisations.

Tension escalated on Thursday evening when community organisations belonging to both Kuki and Naga communities issued a 24-hour "ultimatum", and warned about a "breakdown of land and order" in case of non-release.

Following this, security agencies tried to persuade the Naga and Kuki organisations to swap those who had been "detained". "It was first decided to release one for one, but the Kuki organisations rejected the proposal," a Kuki leader in Kangpokpi told *DH*.

UP: Man kills pregnant wife for wearing 'T-shirt', dies by suicide

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A man in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district allegedly strangled his pregnant wife to death following a dispute with her over wearing T-shirts before dying by suicide.

According to police sources, Shadab, a resident of Mukaripur village, married Nikhat, a resident of Mumbai, some six months ago. Nikhat was used to a modern lifestyle and was having trouble adjusting to village life, and the couple often fought over dressing, the sources added. Their bodies were recovered from their room a couple of days ago. While Nikhat was lying on the bed, Shadab's body was hanging from the fan.

Muslim youth spotted with Hindu girls, faces saffron ire in UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A Muslim youth, who was allegedly spotted with Hindu girls on the banks of the Ganga in Varanasi, was thrashed by the activists of a saffron outfit.

According to reports, the youth, who hailed from Bareilly town, was also made to apologise by the activists before being let off.

The matter came to light after a video purportedly showing the Muslim youth seeking forgiveness with folded hands from two other youths, allegedly workers of the saffron outfit, standing near him, went viral on social media platforms on Friday.

Reports said that the incident happened at Assi Ghat, a popular tourist destination in the temple town on the bank of the Ganga, late on Thursday night. One of the activists is seen telling the Muslim youth to say that henceforth he will never roam with Hindu girls nor speak to them.

Sources said that the police reached the spot a little later and were probing the video to identify the alleged culprits.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

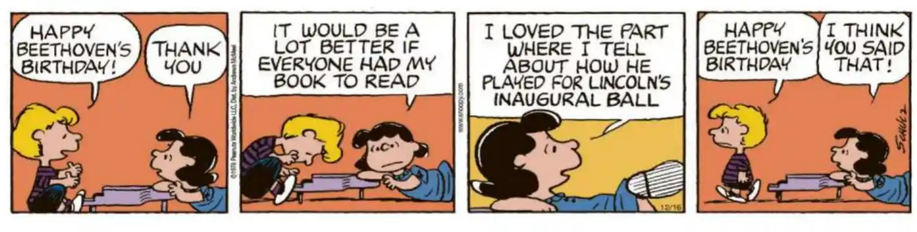
Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

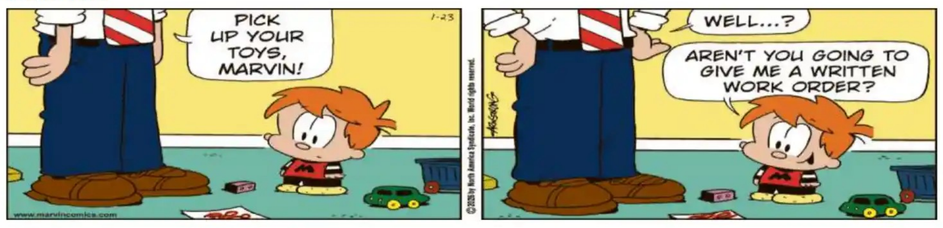
LUCKY EDDIE, I MUST SAY, TONIGHT'S DINNER SMELLS SO MUCH BETTER THAN LAST NIGHT'S DINNER!
7-28
STOP PRETENDING YOU DON'T SEE HIM!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts


HAPPY BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY!
THANK YOU
IT WOULD BE A LOT BETTER IF EVERYONE HAD MY BOOK TO READ
I LOVED THE PART WHERE I TELL ABOUT HOW HE PLAYED FOR LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL BALL
HAPPY BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY
I THINK YOU SAID THAT!

Marvin



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

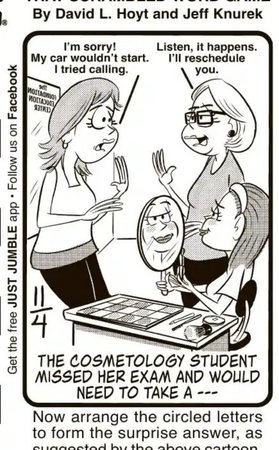
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLESL

LKUSL

TWREET

BEAOAM


I'm sorry! My car wouldn't start. I tried calling.
Listen, it happens. I'll reschedule you.
11/4
THE COSMETOLOGY STUDENT MISSED HER EXAM AND WOULD NEED TO TAKE A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

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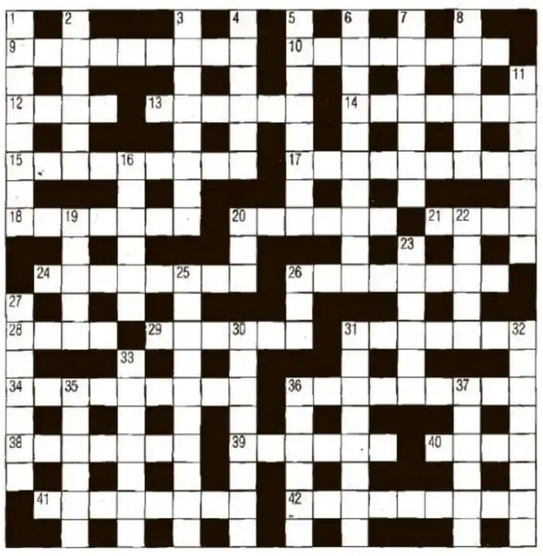
Yesterday's Jumbles: THUMP GIANT DIGEST FELLOW
Answer: When their kids and pets crawled into bed with them, they were able to — SLEEP TIGHT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4040

CRYPTIC



ACROSS

9 Try to get the temperature raised to the same degree (4,2,3)
10 Remain doggo and don't reveal the truth yet (3,5)
12 Blast! It's making the baby cry! (4)
13 Spurt out when you cut gently into it (6)
14 Is it less burdensome than a box of matches? (7)
15 Fruit the warder wouldn't allow the prisoner to have? (9)
17 Killed by the masseur? (6,3)
18 Said "Terrible racket outside," with scorn (7)
20 Insect that won't necessarily take to the air? (6)
21 Yearn to be the one in possession of the hot tip (4)
24 Had got better, one learned (6,2)
26 It's very smart. You can't say more than that (4,4)
28 Again having got across (4)
29 Having caught and got its teeth into the robber (6)
31 Attacks so it scuttles into the shack (4,3)
34 Possibly a fiver lost to a sweetheart long ago? (5,4)
36 VIP giving one a broad grin! (3,6)
38 Go back into the refuge (7)
39 It's very wearing, you say emphatically (6)
40 Is it torn from the tenant? (4)
41 Is that a grandfather clock, grandfather? (3-5)
42 Not enough to implement a change of title (3,6)

DOWN

1 Ushered outside again and it was wet (8)
2 They happened to get the flat way back (6)
3 The gooseberry and peach concoction neither sent back (8)
4 A reliable firm (6)
5 The pensioners hector like the devil (3,5)
6 Gracious! Is that "5" ringing? (5,5)
7 The light breakfast carried up does come as a surprise (7)
8 What the highest of the high are (6)
11 Gosh! A hooded figure! (7)
16 Figure the bank's accepted the duds (6)
19 Liking to excel (5)
20 What the kitchen cupboard reveals is a shock (3)
22 The freight, try to get onto the vehicle (5)
23 Change the rod (6)
25 How the ghost appeared at the stroke of midnight? (4,2,4)
26 Drunk in bed in France (3)
27 Do go to class to be like all the others (7)
30 They work in the theatre, but not as strippers! (8)
31 Getting tight, see as the best part (4,4)
32 One's young days, seventy years ago! (8)
33 Tries at first, when one is a witness (7)
35 Would finding it in a pram worry you? (6)
36 The best dressed again will be in hats (6)
37 Builds and the secret is out (6)

ACROSS

9 Vegetable (9)
10 Disease affecting blood-sugar (8)
12 Extremely dry (4)
13 Hot pepper (6)
14 Relating to touch (7)
15 Native Parisian? (9)
17 Russian instrument (9)
18 Nourish (7)
20 Salad vegetable (6)
21 Bird from New Zealand (4)
24 Handgun (8)
26 Uncivilised (8)
28 Recess in a church (4)
29 Scrape away (6)
31 Bird of prey (7)
34 End of chess game (9)
36 Racially divisive system (9)
38 Cunning (7)
39 Unfair (6)
40 Messy person (4)
41 Woodwind instrument (8)
42 Person who follows (9)

DOWN

1 Heating fuel (8)
2 Try hard (6)
3 Exuberant friendliness (8)
4 German city (6)
5 Improvised (2-6)
6 Beam fixed at one end (10)
7 Writing implements (7)
8 Zodiac sign (6)
11 Hard brittle material (7)
16 Voucher (6)
19 Long grasses (5)
20 Listening organ (3)
22 More frozen (5)
23 Smooth-haired hound (6)
25 Percussion instrument (10)
26 Flying insect (3)
27 Right-wing ideology (7)
30 Good enough (8)
31 Backpack (8)
32 Colourful beetle (8)
33 Songbird (7)
35 Regularly (6)
36 Alter slightly (6)
37 Join up (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12417

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, Dr-I've 6, Birch 9, Instead 10, Mecca 11, Lords 12, Still 13, Me-Di-ate 15, 'Tis 17, Adam 18, Starch 19, Rifts 20, Backer 22, Daub 24, Are 25, Novella 26, LIVID 27, AB-out 28, Pie-ty 29, RA-phael 30, Level 31, Pearl

DOWN: 2, Ree-le-d 3, Vic-Tim 4, EN-a 5, State 6, B-allots 7, I-dol 8, Cedri-c. 12, St-air 13, Mam-B-a 14, Dan-ce 15, Trial 16, She-BA 18, Stood 19, Recital 21, Ara-BL-e 22, Def-ile 23, Ulster 25, Night 26, Lure 28, Pep

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Carat 6, Pouch 9, Deliver 10, Bison 11, Ladle 12, Basil 13, Capital 15, Vet 17, Ales 18, Parade 19, Risen 20, Shaken 22, Bent 24, Eon 25, Refutes 26, Hover 27, Cedes 28, Steal 29, Residue 30, Steed 31, Erred

DOWN: 2, Animal 3, Adonis 4, Ten 5, Vital 6, Pelican 7, Oral 8, Called 12, Basin 13, Cause 14, Pecan 15, Valet 16, Tents 18, Peter 19, Reposed 21, Honest 22, Butter 23, Negate 25, Resin 26, Here 28, Sue

◆ SU-DO-KU-6907 ◆

		8		6	4		3	
	2	6					7	
3	1			2	9			
			2		1	7	5	3
	9						1	
1	5	2	3		6			
			9	5			2	8
	8					3	9	
	4		1	3		5		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6906

3	4	2	5	8	1	6	9	7
7	5	6	3	2	9	1	8	4
1	9	8	6	4	7	2	5	3
6	1	3	9	5	2	4	7	8
5	7	4	1	6	8	3	2	9
2	8	9	7	3	4	5	1	6
4	6	1	8	9	5	7	3	2
8	3	5	2	7	6	9	4	1
9	2	7	4	1	3	8	6	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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O1	R1	O1	S1	N1	T1	P3		RACK 1
S1	T1	N1	N1	S1	E1	O1	Double Word Score	RACK 2
E1	R1	N1	A1	T1	C3	E1	1st Letter Double	RACK 3
D2	M3	W4	O1	A1	A1	E1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3	O1	N1	I1	S1	M3		
M3	I1	S1	U1	S1	E1	D2	
B3	A1	C3	K5	E1	R1	S1	
G2	E1	L1	A1	T1	O1		

RACK 1 = 10
RACK 2 = 60
RACK 3 = 95
RACK 4 = 14
JUDD'S TOTAL 179

PAR SCORE 115-125

HITORI-3361

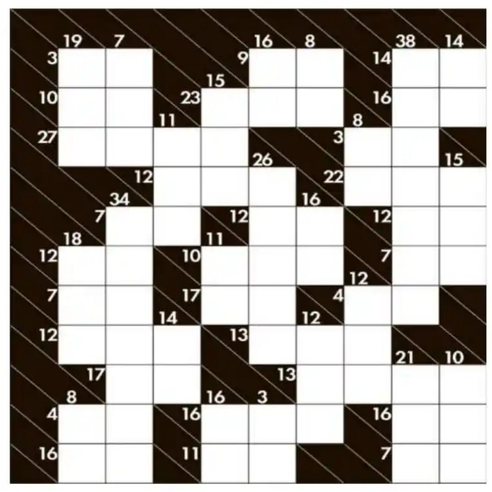
2	5	4	8	7	2	1	4
4	4	1	4	3	7	2	8
6	4	4	3	6	4	5	3
8	1	6	5	6	4	3	7
5	7	8	1	1	4	6	4
4	8	4	2	4	5	7	3
6	6	2	3	5	4	8	1
3	6	7	1	2	8	6	4

SOLUTION TO 3360

4	■	3	6	7	■	2	■
3	7	■	5	8	4	1	2
■	6	5	1	■	3	■	8
6	2	■	4	3	■	8	1
2	■	4	■	1	6	3	7
■	3	8	7	6	1	■	4
1	■	7	8	2	■	4	3
8	1	2	■	4	5	■	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3361



SOLUTION TO 3360

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3917

4			9	2	5	8		3
	■	7		4			2	
		■				■		
			■	9	■		8	
	8			■		1		
		9	■		■	3		6
	5	■				■		
	■		8	6			5	
■	3	6						■

SOLUTION TO 3916

1	7	2	9	8	6	4	3	5
5	8	9	3	4	2	1	7	6
3	6	4	5	7	1	8	2	9
6	5	8	7	3	4	9	1	2
4	1	3	8	2	9	5	6	7
2	9	7	6	1	5	3	8	4
7	4	1	2	9	3	6	5	8
8	3	5	4	6	7	2	9	1
9	2	6	1	5	8	7	4	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

IN BRIEF

Toll in UP storm, rain reaches 142

LUCKNOW, DHNS: The death toll in incidents related to severe storm and heavy rain across Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday has gone up to 142, with some seriously wounded people succumbing to their injuries. The storm that struck several districts, especially in the state's eastern and central regions, also destroyed standing crops and killed a large number of livestock.

The farmers who suffered 33% crop damage will be compensated. Financial compensation will also be provided to those who lost livestock, sources said. The Varanasi, Prayagraj and Kanpur divisions were the worst affected.

FIR for revealing minor's identity

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Cyberabad police have registered an FIR for revealing the identity of the alleged minor survivor in the Pocso case against Union Minister's son Bandi Sai Bageerath. Cases have also been booked against social media users who published the photos, videos and personal information of the survivor and her parents.

Man held for planting bomb

MUMBAI, DHNS: Two days after a live bomb was planted at hospital in Pune, Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad on Friday arrested Shivaji Rathod on a train near Nagpur. Rathod hails from Solapur district. He was planning to run away to nepal. According to investigations, the accused did not have money for treatment. So, he hatched a conspiracy to extort ransom by issuing a bomb threat to the hospital.

No bail to 5 TCS accused

NASHIK, PTI: A Nashik court on Friday rejected the bail pleas of five persons arrested in the TCS sexual harassment-forced conversion case. The bail pleas of Tausif Attar, Raza Memon, Shahrukh Qureshi, Asif Ansari and Ashwini Chainani were rejected, public prosecutor Vijay Gaikwad said. Arguments on the bail pleas took place between May 11 and 13.

Combat aircraft testing centre

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandra Babu Naidu on Friday laid the foundation stone for the Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre at Puttaparthi to fast-track the development of the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and other future indigenous platforms, that will come up in the Anakapalli district.

Assam annual budget in July

GUWAHATI, PTI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the first full-fledged annual Budget of his new government, likely to be tabled in July, will reflect its plans and road map for the next five years. He said a series of meetings have been lined up with different departments to formulate the Budget by incorporating the plans and feedback from the people during the election campaigning.

HC takes up Zubeen case

GUWAHATI, PTI: The Gauhati High Court on Friday took up the bail petition of Shyamkanu Mahanta, a prime accused in the Zubeen Garg death case. The court of Justice Mitali Thakuria heard the matter, fixing May 22 for the next date of hearing. The court has asked Mahanta's counsellor to give additional affidavit on May 18.

HC relief to Unnao lifer set aside

SC refers matter to Delhi HC to decide plea afresh

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside a Delhi High Court order that suspended the life sentence awarded to former BJP MLA from Uttar Pradesh Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case.

The apex court remitted the matter to the HC to decide the plea afresh.

Partly allowing an appeal filed by the CBI, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the HC to either decide Sengar's appeal against conviction within two to three months or pass a fresh order on the application seeking the suspension of his sentence.

Senior advocate N Hariharan, appearing for Sengar, contended that there was strong evidence to show that the prosecutrix was not a minor at the time of the alleged incident.

Opposing the submissions, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, claimed the HC was wrong in taking a view that an MLA was not a "public servant" within the meaning of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

Agreeing with him, the bench said, "We are not endorsing the hypertechnical view taken by the HC." The court said that the Pocso Act was enacted to protect children.

In December last year, the apex court stayed the Delhi High Court order suspending the jail sentence and granting bail to the expelled BJP leader Sengar in the Unnao rape case after hearing an appeal filed by the CBI.

The high court order sparked criticism from a section, triggering protests by the victim, her family and activists.

Sengar had challenged a December 2019 trial court verdict in the case. He, however, remained in jail since he was also serving 10 years' imprisonment in the custodial death case of the victim's father.

COURT INTERVENES

- HC asked to either decide Sengar's appeal against conviction within 2-3 months or pass a fresh order on the application seeking the suspension of his sentence
- Sengar's lawyer contended that there was strong evidence to show that the prosecutrix was not a minor at the time of the alleged incident.
- The court said that the Pocso Act was enacted to protect children

Madhumita murder: SC allows premature release of convict

Says focus should be on reformation, not retribution

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court of India on Friday granted premature release to Rohit Chaturvedi, one of the convicts in the 2003 murder case of 26-year-old poet Madhumita Shukla.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan found that the convict had spent 22 years in jail without remission and observed that "crime is one thing; reformation is another".

The court set aside the Ministry of Home Affairs order dated July 9, 2025, which had rejected the Uttarakhand government's recommendation for Chaturvedi's premature release.

The bench emphasised that the state's focus should be on reformation rather than retribution, noting that Chaturvedi is already out on bail and need not surrender.

SUPREME COURT

"Remission is not an extension of the sentencing process, but a distinct executive function concerned with the present and future, namely, the prisoner's conduct and evidence of reformation

Madhumita Shukla was shot dead on May 9, 2003, at her residence in Lucknow's Paper Mill Colony while she was pregnant.

Former Uttar Pradesh minister Amarmani Tripathi was arrested in September 2003 in connection with the poet's killing. He was allegedly in a relationship with her. Subsequently, other accused were also arrested in connection with a conspiracy to kill Shukla.

In 2007, the trial court convicted Amarmani Tripathi, his wife Madhumani Tripathi, his nephew Rohit Chaturvedi and associate for Shukla's murder. The court awarded them life imprisonment.

Amarmani Tripathi served as a minister in the BJP government in UP in 2001. He was later part of the BSP government formed in 2002.

Fuel conservation: Supreme Court to go virtual twice a week

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday decided to hear cases exclusively through video-conferencing on Mondays and Fridays, while bringing in a series of immediate administrative measures — including carpooling by judges and partial work-from-home arrangements for Registry staff.

Acting in accordance with the Union government's fuel-conservation steps, Supreme Court Secretary General Bharat Parashar said the steps were being implemented pursuant to an Office Memorandum dated May 12, issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, in the light of the fuel crisis due to the West Asia conflict.

"Matters listed on miscellaneous days (i.e., on Mondays, Fridays, or on such other days as declared to be miscellaneous) and matters listed during the court's partial working days shall be heard by video-conferencing only," the apex court circular said.

It also stated that the Registry would ensure that the videoconferencing links were sent on time, maintain stable video-conferencing facilities, and provide timely technical assistance to avoid any inconvenience to the court.

"To ensure optimum utilisation of fuel, the judges of the SC have unanimously resolved to encourage carpooling arrangements amongst themselves," the circular said.

It said that till further orders, up to 50% of the staff in each branch or section of the Registry were permitted to work from home for up to two days per week, provided that the remaining staff remained available in the office.

AUSTERITY MOVE

- To function in virtual mode on Mondays and Fridays
- Judges to carpool
- 50% of staff in each branch or section of the Registry are permitted to work from home up to two days every week

Southwest monsoon may hit Kerala coast on May 26: IMD

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An early date with the monsoon may be in the offing, with the India Meteorological Department on Friday announcing that the Kerala coast is likely to see the arrival of the southwest monsoon on May 26—five days ahead of schedule.

"This year, the southwest monsoon is likely to set in over Kerala on May 26 with a model error of plus or minus four days," the agency said.

The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by its onset over Kerala and is a key indicator characterising the transition from the hot and dry season to the rainy season. The onset date forecast is made on the basis of six regional and local weather parameters.

A girl runs through the beach against the backdrop of monsoon clouds at Fort Kochi in Kerala. REUTERS FILE

In the past 21 years, IMD's onset forecast was mostly accurate, barring in 2015 when the monsoon reached Kerala on June 5 as against the forecast date of May 30.

The monsoon has arrived in the Andaman Sea earlier this week, and conditions are favourable for its further advance to the south Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the next 24 hours.

In its first forecast in April, the agency predicted that India would receive "below normal" rainfall in 2026.

It also predicted the emergence of El Niño in the later half of the monsoon season.

Bengal to roll out PM-SHRI

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Ministry of Education on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the West Bengal government to implement the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme in the state.

The centrally sponsored initiative is being implemented in the state almost four years after the scheme was launched in September 2022.

West Bengal, under the earlier TMC government, had opposed joining the scheme, citing the state's autonomy on education, which often led to funding disputes with the Centre.

On Friday, a memorandum of understanding was signed, in the presence of school education and literacy secretary Sanjay Kumar, between the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education and the West Bengal government.

"Aligned with the vision of NEP 2020, this initiative focuses on transforming existing schools into model institutions of excellence. These schools will serve as exemplary schools, guiding and supporting other nearby schools to enhance learning outcomes, innovation and holistic education," the ministry posted on X.

SKM slams Centre's Kharif MSP, calls for nationwide stir

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Thursday criticised the Centre's Minimum Support Price (MSP) announcement for Kharif crops of the 2026-27 season and called for nationwide protests, including burning copies of the MSP order in villages from May 27 to 31.

The farmers' body accused the Modi government of continuing its "12 years of betrayal" by refusing to implement the Swaminathan Commission's recommendation of fixing MSP at 50% above the comprehensive cost of cultivation.

The SKM slammed the Union government for fixing MSPs on the basis of the A2+FL formula instead of the broader C2 cost formula, which includes imputed rent and interest on owned land and fixed capital assets.

The farmers' body said the rates announced by the Centre were significantly lower than what farmers would get under the Swaminathan formula.

The outfit said that for paddy, the government-fixed MSP is Rs 2,441 per quintal, while the C2+50% price should be Rs 3,243 per quintal — resulting in a loss of Rs 802 per quintal to farmers.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
(An Autonomous Institution of DST, Govt. of India)
C.V. Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080
Phone: 080 22661203, 1202, Email: execsec@ias.c.in

Tender No. 05/ES/IASc/2026-27 **Dated: 14/05/2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed bids are invited under a two-bid system for: **Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of an Investment Advisor for Providing Investment Advisory Services to the Indian Academy of Sciences for Prudent and Appropriate Investment Management of the Academy Corpus Fund.**

Tender document containing eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and submission details may be downloaded from the Academy Website: **https://www.ias.ac.in/ About_IASc/Tender_notices/**

Last Date for Submission of Bid: **29 May 2026, 12.00 Noon.**

Sd/- Executive Secretary,
Indian Academy of Sciences

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE TOWN PANCHAYAT KALAGI, TQ. KALAGI, DIST. KALABURAGI
Website: www.kalagitown.mrc.gov.in E-mail: ka.kalagi.tp@gmail.com Ph.:08474-200310

No. P.P.K/TS/ /2026-27 Date : 12.05.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief Officer of the Town Panchayat has invited a long-term tender under the Karnataka Transparency Rules (KTTP) 1999-2000 for the year 2026-27 under the SFC Drinking Water, SFC CAPITAL and AMRUTH 2.0 (Water Bodies Rejuvenation) scheme. Eligible interested renewed/registered Manpower Agencies/Contractors are requested to participate online through the bid document (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).
1) Details of work/goods and services: **(1) DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58083, (2) DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT58079, (3) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56239** 2) Amount of work/goods tender of service: **3.81 Laksh to 123.00 Laksh**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Registered Agencies, 4) Work Tender Amount: **3.81 Laksh to 123.00 Laksh**, 5) Tender Application Price and EMD Amount: Tender Application Fee e-procurement and EMD From Rs.1.00 Lakhs to 100.00 Lakhs. General 2.5% to 2%, 6) Last date for submission of tender online application: **Date :26.05.2026 and 29.05.2026,** 7) Financial bid opening date : **29.05.2026 and 08.06.2026 Morning 11.30 AM**, 8) For further Information Address for details as well: Near Post Office, Town Panchayat Office Kalagi-585312, 08474-200310 Mobile No: 7259697929, If there are any further changes to the tenders that have been published (This can be viewed at the following address: (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) no press release will be issued in this regard), 9) Website Address: www.kalagitown.mrc.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer
Town Panchayath Kalagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/124/KSMC&A/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕೊಪ್ಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ
E-mail:-dcfkoppa@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಬಿ1:ಬಿಜಿಟಿ:ಸಿಆರ್:39/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–04–2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಪ್ಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಗ್ರಹಾರ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳೆಹಳ್ಳದಿಂದ ಕರ್ಕೂಟದವರೆಗೆ (2.570 ಕಿ.ಮೀ) ರೈಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾರಿಕೇಡ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (Including procurement and Transportation) ಬಾಬ್ತು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–05–2026ರಂದು** ಇ –ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.3,66,98,577/– ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–04–2026 ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್** ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr (Op)TZ/SEE(O)AE-2/26-27/1431-33 Date: 14.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry **No:KPTCL/CEE/Tr(O)/Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/0049 Date: 17.09.2025(Call-3).** for Augmentation of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer-2 by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11KV Urdigere sub-station in Koratagere Taluk, Tumakuru District under Operation Division, KPTCL, Tumakuru, including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under Parial turnkey basis, on Percentage Tender Basis (Power Transformer & NIFES will be supplied by KPTCL, Testing and commissioning will be carried out by KPTCL).

The detailed inforamtion regarding subject enquiry in KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.05.2026.** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.,) Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Parasara Bhavana, 1st Floor, 66/11kV Tumakuru S/S Premises, Tumakuru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂವಿ.ಧಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ.–2/2026–2027/418 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – 01/2026–27 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **No.FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, date: 15-09-2017** ರನ್ವಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ/ ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ **KW-1, KW-2** ಮತ್ತು **KW-3** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

Indent Numbers: General : 26430, 26529, 26530, 26433, 26434, 26435, 26526, 26438, 26445,26420, 24812, 24801, 25384, 25388, 25375, 25386, 26253, 26335, 24379/Call-2, 24430/Call-2, 18445/Call-4, 26428, 26570.

CAT-1 : 26436,
CAT-II (A) : 26432, 26525, 26528, 25380, 25382, 25377, 26062,
SC Category : 26531, 26427, 25381, 24112,
ST Category : 24348, 26563

ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್ಸ್:
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–05–2026** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–05–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–05–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ.
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–06–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ/ EMD ಮೊತ್ತ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಬಿ.ಎನ್.ಗೌಡರ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/178/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2026–27

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ) ರವರ ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ನರಸಿಂಹರಾಜ ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560002.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೇ.ನ.ಪಾ.ಹಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.(ಶಿ)/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/32,35,37,40/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–05–2026

ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2026–27 ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ರವರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ರವರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–05–2026.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಮತ್ತು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 51–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 11–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 19–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ, 10–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು, 02–ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ 01–ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ, ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲುಚೀಲ, ಬ್ಯಾಗುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವೆಟರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಮಳಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ವಿತರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ವಿವರ	ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಸಮವಸ್ತ್ರ	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,963	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
2	ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೂಚೀಲ	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	8,963	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
3	ಬ್ಯಾಗುಗಳು	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	9,293	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ
4	ಸ್ವೆಟರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	9,293	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ

–: ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು :–

1) ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 51–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 11–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 19–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ, 10–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು, 02–ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ 01–ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ದರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ದರಗಳು ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 3) ಶೀಲ್ಡ್ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–05–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 4) ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–05–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ), ಬೆಂಕೇನಪಾ.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ಕಂಪನಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, "ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಭವನ",
ಗೋಪನಕೊಪ್ಪ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580 023.
Tel : 0836-2223867
E-mail ID: gmadmhr.hescom@gmail.com
hescom.karnataka.gov.in

ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಗುರುತಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ CIN: U31401KA2002SGC030437

No:ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ/ಪ್ರವ್ಯ(ಆ)/ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಎಮ್.ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಕಿರಿಯ ಪವರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್ (ಎನ್.ಕೆ.ಕೆ.) ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: 1. ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ/ಬಿ16/44953/ 2023–24(NKK), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.10.2024.
2. ಸಹನ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ/ ಪ್ರವ್ಯ(ಆ)/ ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಎಮ್. ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/ 2024–25/ ಸಿವೈಎಸ್–1704, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.05.2025
3. ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ/ಪ್ರವ್ಯ(ಆ)/ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಎಮ್. ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/2024–25/ ಸಿವೈಎಸ್–1519 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪ್ರಸರಣ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ/ಬಿ16/44953/2023–24, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.10.2024 ರ** ಅನುಸಾರವಾಗಿ, ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಕಿರಿಯ ಪವರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್ (NKK)** ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ./10ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗಳಿಸಿರುವ ಅಂಕಗಳ ಜ್ಯೇಷ್ಠತೆಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹನಶಕ್ತಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ **ಕಟ್–ಆಫ್ ಅಂಕಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು** ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣ **https://hescom.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
(ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾ.ಸಂ.ಅ.)
ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ., ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/182/2026–27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

P1

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Head Office, No.14/3, 1st Floor,
Aravindha Bavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: KIADB/SLAO/375/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public and related Land Khatedars/Anubhavdars/interested people that total 9355.36 Sq. Mtr. Land in below mentioned Survey Numbers in Kempapura Agrahara and Agrahara Dasarahalli Villages, Yeshwanthapura – 2 Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, for the purpose of constructing Viaduct and Stations from Hosahalli to K.H.B. Colony of Metro Rail Project 3rd Phase Package – 4, Preliminary Notification No.: CI 22 SPQ 2026 Dated 18.04.2026 has been published in Karnataka State Gazette. If there are any objections to this Land Acquisition Process, within 30 days from the date of publication in State Gazette, objections should be submitted in writing, in person or through authorized person to Head Office of the **Special Land Acquisition Officer (KIADB), No. 14/3, C.F.C. Building, Maharshi Aravinda Bhavana, 1st Floor, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru -560001** and Details of the Lands for Acquisition are as below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Khatedar	Name of Anubhavadar	Identification No.	LA/City Survey No.	BBMP Property No./ PID No.	Acquisition Area (in Sq. Mtr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
For the Purpose of Viaduct Construction **Village: Kempapura Agrahara** **Taluk: Bengaluru North** **Hobli: Yeshwanthapura** **District: Bengaluru**						
1	K. Puttanarasappa	1. Residential House 2. Catering	C2-20	1152	36-76-101	497.17
2	On behalf of Meghana Properties 1. J. Laddu Lal Jain 2 Kamala Bai 3. Devendra Jain 4. Saheel Jain	Vacant Land	C2-20A	1152	36-76-100	501.70 1.43 (Road) **503.13**
3	1. Usha Prasad Bhat W/o Prasad Bhat 2. Prasad Mohan Bhat S/o Y. Mohan	Vacant Land	C2-21	1152	1607221730	502.39
4	Ganapathi Prabhu K. S/o Late Vittal Prabhu	**Ground Floor** 1. SBI ATM **First Floor** 2. SBI Bank **Second Floor** 3. Party Hall **Third Floor** 4. Sutra Fitness Gym	C2-22	1152	36-76-103	416.62
5	Shankar Gopal Krishnan S/o Meenakshi Gopal Krishnan	Janani Apartment	C2-22B	1152	Site No. 104	0.87
6	K.P. Karunakara Yadav S/o Kannupillai	Vacant Land	C2-25	1136	36-19-84	49.04
7	K. Renugopal, S/o Kannu Pillai	**Ground Floor** 1. Mozart Stone 2. Curatada Sports Pvt. Ltd. 3. Residential House **First Floor** 4. Residential House **Second Floor** 5. Residential House **Third Floor** 6. Residential House	C2-25A	1136	8667645290 36-19-84/1	41.80
8	Sri Nagasubramanya Swamy Temple	Sri Nagasubramanya Swamy Temple	C2-25B	1076	-	66.08
9	1. Bhaiyamma 2. Shyamala R. 3. Kavitha M. 4. Pratap M. 5. Shobha M. 6. Kiran M.	Car Garage	C2-26	1137	36-29-3/2	77.28
10	Satyendra V. Naik	Indian Institute of Fashion Technology	C2-28	1138	36-29-1/6	48.95
11	Rajajinagar Co-operative Society Ltd.	1. Davird Auto Detailing Studio 2. Washing Station	C2-28A	1076	-	44.55
12	Satyanarayana Shetty P.G. S/o Palavalli Govindayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Venkateshwara Paint and Hardware 2. Shakti Steels 3. Vacant Shop **First Floor** 4. Real Estate Office	C2-30	1138	36-29-3/ 1-10	37.13
13	B. Yogesh	**First & Ground Floor** 1. GBB Kalyana Mantapa 2. Mores Stag Global Table Tennis Academy **Second Floor** 3. 1 Room	C2-30B	1138	36-29-3/ 1-11	68.97
14	Ramesh D.R. S/o D.M. Ramakrishna	Sri Sai Car Spa	C2-32	1138	36-29-9	20.85
Total (A)						**2374.83**
For the Purpose of Viaduct Construction **Village: Agrahara Dasarahalli** **Taluk: Bengaluru North** **Hobli: Yeshwanthapura** **District: Bengaluru**						
15	1. M. Narasimhraju S/o Late M. Muniyappa 2. M. Sheelarthi S/o Late M. Muniyappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Mahesh Tyre Gallery 2. Sri Guru Condiments and Juice 3. Eon Fitness 4. Kadamba Sports and Fitness **First Floor** 5. Pavan Metrology 6. Anugraha Hospital 7. Anugraha Medicals **Second Floor** 8. The Opulence Club	C2-33	1139	36-29-18/2 36-29-18/2-3 36-29-18/2-4	78.11
16	1. K.V. Chandrashekhar 2. L.C. Kushal	Veeresh Cinema Theatre	C2-34	1140	36-29-1	153.11
17	Prakash H.	Gagan Party Hall	C2-35 C2-36	1077	36-29-5/6	9.07 27.20
18	Devaru S.N.P.	**Ground Floor** 1. SS Traders (Godrej) 2. FM Mobile Point 3. Brand Box Bengaluru 4. Meena Comfort 5. Maruti Military Hotel 6. Vacant Shop 7. Sri Guru Sai Condiments **First Floor** 8. Meena Comfort **Second & Third Floor** 9. Boys PG	C2-37 C2-38	1077	36-29-5/1	55.00 52.39
19	Rangaswamy S/o Ankappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Sangam Acrylics 2. Sri Brahmalingeshwara Juice and Condiments 3. Sai Ram Tyres 4. Sri Manjunatha Books and Condiments 5. Sri Krishna Vaibhav 6. Aishwarya Bakery and Sweets 7. Lakshmi Auto Agencies 8. Hi-Tech Bikes 9. Tawa Fish Point 10. Karthik Bar Restaurant 11. Karthik Pan Shop 12. PSP Paint and Chemicals 13. Ram Dev Trading Company 14. Amba Bhavani Enterprises 15. Sun Star Steel and Engineering Co. 16. SCM Car Care 17. PCS Television 18. Sri Refrigeration Company 19. Isha Wood Carving **First & Second Floor** 20. Nisarga Men's PG	C2-39 C2-42	1135	36-29-6/1 36-29-6	315.14 415.15
20	Rangaswamy S/o Ankappa	1. Prime Agency 2. Saptagiri Enterprises 3. Jayalakshmi Factory	C2-40 C2-41	1135	36-29-6/2	333.49 52.23
21	Vinod A. S/o Annayappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Vidya Sharada Cycle Works **First & Second Floor** 2. Nisarga Ladies PG	C2-43	1134	36-46-34/1	9.23
22	Lakshmana alias Pundarika S/o Late Muniswamappa	Sri Manjunath Stove Works	C2-44	1134	7565770662	23.17
23	1. Nagamma 2. Hanumakka and M. Manju	**Ground Floor** 1. Benaka Video and Photo 2. Cloth Shop **First Floor** 3. 1 Residential House **Second Floor** 4. 1 Residential House	C2-45	1134	36-46-34/2 36-46-34/1A	39.24
24	T.N. Srinivas S/o Late Nagayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Yashas Aquariams **First Floor** 2. 2 Residential Houses **Second Floor** 3. 2 Residential Houses **Third Floor** 4. 2 Residential Houses	C2-46	1133	36-46-35/3	8.95
25	Venkatesh S. S/o Siddayya	**Ground Floor** Royal Castle Outfit **First Floor** 1. 1 Residential House **Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-47	1133	36-46-35	4.06
26	Bernard Balaraj S/o Anthony	1. Donne Biryani Adda 2. Jayadev Sales and Service	C2-48	1132	3446929429	6.17
27	Lokesh S/o Chinnagappa	1. Sri Durga Condiments 2. Maruti Chemicals	C2-49	1125	1314142373	4.52
28	Ratnamma W/o Appayyanna N.	Sri Manjunath Cycle Shop	C2-49A	1125	1279548246	2.80
29	Mastigowda	Mastigowda	C2-49B	1124	-	3.11
30	R. Kamalegowda alias R. Kamalesh Gowda S/o Ramakrishnappa	Sri Annapoorneshwari Coal and Coke	C2-49C	1124	36-46-114	3.58
31	K.S. Sushila, W/o N.P. Chitrashekhar	Prerana Car Bazaar	C2-50	1123	36-46-37	10.72
32	Yuvaraj H. S/o Honnayya B.	**Ground Floor** 1. Residential House **First Floor** 2. Residential House	C2-51	1123	7953258312	7.44
33	1. Jaswath Kumar G. 2. Kailas Chand	1. Photo Studio 2. Sri Ambika Electricals and Appliances	C2-52	1120 1121	36-46-41	13.77
34	Sawant Singh R.	**Ground Floor** 1. Galaxy 2. Sri Ambika Chemicals 3. Shisha Metals **First Floor** 1 Residential House	C2-53	1119	36-46-42	16.45
35	Ganga Lakshmamma	**Ground Floor** 1. Karnataka Car Zone 2. Tiffin Centre 3. Sri Ranga Condiments **First Floor** 4. A.M. Technologies 5. L.R.D. Law Associates	C2-54	1107	36-46-43	13.16
36	M. Baiyanna S/o Late Muniyappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Balaji Tyre Shop **First & Second Floor** 2. M.K.B. Ladies Tailors	C2-55	1106	36-46-44	9.16
37	1. B. Sharath S/o Late V. Balachandra 2. Shashidhar B. S/o Late V. Balachandra	C.V. Gurukula College Day & Evening College	C2-56	1105	36-46-45	24.51
38	Shantamma	Vacant Land	C2-57	1104	-	22.92
39	B.V. Ravi S/o Late Vishwajnachari	**Ground Floor** 1. Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jana Aushadhi Kendra **First Floor** 2. 1 Residential House **Second Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-58	1104	36-46-46/2-1	12.15
40	Savandappa M.	**Ground Floor** 1. S.V. Helmet Centre 2. Vishwas Steels **First Floor** 3. 2 Residential Houses	C2-58A	1103 1102	36-46-47 36-46-47/1	39.21
41	1. Narasimhamurthy K. S/o J. Krishnappa 2. Lakshmikanth K. S/o J. Krishnappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Dream Deal Electronics & Furniture **First Floor** 2. Tutorial Hall **Second Floor** 3. Hotel Cellar House	C2-59	1101	36-46-48	31.32
42	Ramakrishna Karanth V.	1. Vacant Shop 2. Residential House	C2-60	1098	36-46-49	9.78
43	Indralal K. S/o P. Krishnaramji	Indira Textiles	C2-61	1097	36-46-50 9086162336	9.61
44	S.M. Khaleel S/o S.M. Sultan	**Ground Floor** 1. Sultan Family Restaurant **First Floor** 2. Room	C2-62	1094	36-46-51	6.89
45	H. Ravikumar	Aroma Coffee Lab	C2-63	1093	36-46-52	9.02
46	N. Lakshman Kumar S/o M. Narayanaswamy	Building Under Construction	C2-64	-	2005084761	9.67
47	Shivarudrayya and Poornima	Madhu Super Speciality Hospital and Research Institute	C2-64A	-	36-46-54/1	22.41
48	Karanth K.V.	Heddari Hotel	C2-65	1091	36-46-52/1	25.87
49	S. Padmavathi D/o P.M. Sampath Kumar	Vacant Shops	C2-66	1089 1090 1091	36-46-53	30.26
50	A. Shivashankar S/o Annayappa	**Ground Floor** 1. 2 Residential Houses 2. 2 Vacant Shops	C2-67	1088	36-46-55	19.70
51	K. Shanmugam S/o Late S.M. Kannayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Mamatha Fruit Stall **First Floor** 2. Balaji Enterprises	C2-68	1087	36-46-56	12.80
52	S.V. Muniraju	**Ground Floor** 1. Godown **First Floor** 2. Children's House Clothing Shop	C2-69	1087 1086	-	14.12
53	R. Prakash S/o R. Ramakrishnappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Manjula Fancy Store 2. Sri Bhuvaneshwari Textiles 3. Sri Krishna Textiles 4. Sri Manjunath Photo Frame Works 5. New Colour Textiles **First Floor** 6. Prabha Gents PG **Second Floor** 7. Vacant Shop	C2-70	1085	36-46-58	52.98
54	M.S. Bhakta Vatsala S/o Shivanna R.	**Ground Floor** 1. Poonam Selection 2. Suman Distributors 3. Bharat Textiles and Handloom House	C2-71	1084	1740435204	17.17
55	Gopalakrishna N. S/o B.M. Narasimhaswamy	**Ground Floor** 1. Deluxe Meat Shop 2. Blue Star Enterprises 3. Bindu Medicals **First Floor** 4. Vacant Shop	C2-72	1083	36-46-60	17.31
56	Sri Raghavendra Enterprises LLP	**Ground Floor** 1. South Ruchis Hotel First, Second, Third Floor Samba Party Hall	C2-73	895	1581661438	21.67
57	G. Pukaraj S/o Gokul Chand Jain	**Ground Floor** 1. Anand Silver Palace 2. Anand Abharan India Pvt. Ltd. **First Floor** 3. Vacant Shop **Second Floor** 4. 1 Residential House	C2-74	895	36-46-1/1	9.94

58	Nagaraju	Sri Ranganatha Flower Decorators	C2-75	895	-	10.41
59	T.C. Channabasavayya	1. Rajkamal Electricals 2. Real Estate Office	C2-75A	895	36-46-3/3	10.68
60	Rachana Gupta W/o G. Manoj Kumar	**Ground Floor** 1. Asha Sweet Centre **First & Second Floor** 2. Godown **Third Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-76	895	1249711935	10.48
61	Mohammed Ghouse S/o Abdul Sattar	**Ground Floor** 1. Rich Look Furniture **First & Second Floor** 2. Godown **Third Floor** 3. Residential House	C2-77	895	8002141938	10.72
62	1. K.S. Jagadeesh 2. K.M. Shubha	**Ground Floor** 1. Kuduru Jewellers **First Floor** 2. Lead Convenience **Second Floor** 3. Prince Makeup Studio	C2-78	895	36-46-6/6	12.17
63	B. Narendra Jain	**Ground Floor** 1. Lakshmi Enterprises 2. Sri Shiva Skanda Jyothishya Kendra 3. Mahaveer Jewels Palace 4. Vacant Shop **First Floor** 5. Manya Makeover Hair Care Studio **Second Floor** 6. Residential House	C2-79	895	36-46-7	13.57
64	Secretary, Sri Veerashaiva Tatva Prachara Samithi	**Ground Floor** 1. Shashank Furniture and Electricals **First Floor** 2. Sri Maruti Dental Clinic	C2-80	895	1279690959 36-46-8	13.87
65	1. T. Bhaskar S/o C.V. Thimmayya 2. Prabha D/o Thimmayya 3. Sunil Kumar T. S/o Thimmayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Dhanalakshmi Medicals 2. S.L.V Communications 3. Godown **First Floor** 4. Siddhi Enterprises	C2-81	895	1180471876	15.35
66	1. Harish D.A. 2. Yogesh A.	**Ground Floor** 1. Kollegal Heritage Astrologers 2. Vacant Shop 3. Jai Ganesh Printing Services 4. Vijayalakshmi Dry Clean **First Floor** 5. Sri Consultancy 6. Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Workers Association 7. K. Karthikeyan Associates, Advocates **Second Floor** 8. Sri Kalabhairava Enterprises	C2-82	895	36-46-10/10	15.27
67	Purushottam Premji Patel	Sri Vishwakarma Wood Works	C2-83	895	36-46-11	17.61
68	1. Shobha 2. P.C. Kalpana 3. M.D. Chetan	**Ground Floor** 1. Factory Outlet 2. ICICI Bank **First & Second Floor** 3. Free Computer Training Centre **Third & Fourth Floor** 4. Residential House	C2-84	895	36-46- 1215/1242 1739037653	18.12
69	Sharadamma W/o A. Ningayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Kumar Cyber Cafe 2. Channapatna Toys **First Floor** 3. Residential House	C2-85	895	36-46-1243	4.63
70	Suvarna Ramesh W/o P. Ramesh	**Ground Floor** 1. Chaman Enterprises **First & Second Floor** 2. Karnataka State Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Association	C2-85A	895	36-46-1243/A	3.25
71	S. Chidlavarya S/o Siddagangappa K.S.	1. Sri Balaji Enterprises 2. Ashith Silvers	C2-86	895	36-46-1244 3160477569	3.27
72	1. H. Ramesh S/o Late Hanumanthappa 2. Saraswathi W/o H. Ramesh	1. Bhuvaneshwari Textiles and Stitching Wear 2. Tirumala Enterprises	C2-86A1	895	36-46-1244/1	5.25
73	D.V. Patil	1. Godown 2. Sri Ashapura Hardware	C2-86A	895	36-46-1245	14.07
74	Hanumantha Rayappa L. S/o Late Doddalakkanna	Godown and Nanjundeshwara Enterprises	C2-86B	895	36-46-1246	8.02
75	Kempanna L.	Yashodha Handlooms	C2-86C	895	36-46-1246A	9.73
76	Eerappa S/o Bhadrayya	**Ground Floor** 1. Sapna House **First Floor** 2. 2 Residential Houses **Second Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-87	895	36-46-1247 1276650495	22.72
77	Prema T.G. W/o Mallesh M.	Angels High School	C2-88	895	36-46-14	24.57
78	Rekha K.	Aroda Arts Creator	C2-89	895	36-46-1249	18.65
79	Kalpana B.G.	**Ground Floor** 1. N.S. Associates 2. Rashi Legal Advocate 3. Sri Sai Ram Enterprises 4. D.C.R Hair Designers 5. Balaji Hardware 6. Venu Enterprises 7. Nagamale Mahadeshwara Swamy Xerox Shop **First Floor** 2. Srirampura Senior Sub-Registrar Office **Second Floor** 3. Prakruti Mata Charitable Trust	C2-90 C2-171	895	36-46-1250 36-46-1251	37.11 10.26
80	Hanumantha Rayappa M.R. S/o M.S. Ramaiah	**Ground Floor** 1. Pranav Digital & Pranav Books 2. Vacant Shop **First Floor** 3. Green Capture Studio **Second & Third Floor** 4. 1 Residential House	C2-91 C2-172	895	5184181766	3.97 8.51
81	Yatiraj M.R. S/o M.S. Ramaiah	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Maruti Borewell 2. Surapana Ayurvedic Tea **First Floor** 3. Shivish Medical & Dental Care **Second Floor** 4. Lakshmi Pattina Cooperative Society Ltd.	C2-92 C2-173	895	36-46-1252	1.45 12.36
82	R. Shobha Suresh W/o Suresh S.	**Ground Floor** 1. Malnad Siri Hotel **First & Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-176A	698	8841166204	15.70
83	Basavaraju D. S/o Doddégowda	Residential House	C2-177A	701	36-46-79/1	13.91
84	Mamatha W/o Shivashankar G.	**Ground Floor** 1. Koli Hut 2. Sri Maruti Courier **First Floor** 3. Vijayanagar Nayakara Sangha (Regd.) 4. R.R.L. Advocate Associations **Second & Third Floor** 5. 1 Residential House	C2-93 C2-177	701	-	8.33 54.50
85	Niteesh	Mahaveer Ceramics	C2-94 C2-178	698	-	14.05 41.11
86	Lokeshayya T.B. S/o T.C. Basavaradhya	**Ground Floor** 1. Vacant Shop **First Floor** 2. Suri Print Shop **Second Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-95 C2-179	698	2631158235	13.08 29.40
87	Nagabhushan T.B. S/o T.C. Basavaradhya	Sri Madhurya Enterprises	C2-95A C2-179A	698	36-46-79/6	16.10 5.77
88	Nagabhushan T.B. S/o T.C. Basavaradhya	**Ground Floor** 1. Residential House **First Floor** 2. Residential House **Second Floor** 3. Residential House	C2-179A1	698	36-46-79/6	27.87
89	Suvarna R.S. W/o Shivagangaradhya	Sri Madhurya Enterprises	C2-96 C2-180	698	36-46-79/5 8588053589	19.49 42.79
90	R. Srinivasayya S/o Late G. Rangappa	Passage	C2-97 C2-181	698	36-46-79/4	3.20 8.25
91	R. Srinivasayya S/o Late G. Rangappa	Rajendra Industrial Suppliers	C2-97A C2-181A	698	36-46-79/4	15.10 88.53
92	1. Kiran Kumar S/o Late Kempa Kumar 2. Sudheer Kumar S/o Late Kempa Kumar	Vacant Shop	C2-181B	698	-	31.70
93	Velu B. Patri S/o Late T.R. Balasubramani	Vacant Land	C2-181C	697	5749240002	119.09
94	1. K. Chandrayya S/o Late Kalappa M. 2. Umadevi W/o K. Chandrayya 3. K. Bharat Kumar S/o Late Kalappa M. 4. M. Lepakshi W/o K. Bharat Kumar	Vacant Land	C2-181D	697	-	41.77
95	1. R. Manjunath 2. R. Raghavendra S/o Ramakrishna H	Core Glass Design	C2-181D1	697	36-46-82/4	32.60
96			C2-181E	697		11.46
97	1. A. Mohan 2. S. Gomathi	**Ground Floor** 1.Annapoorneshwari Vegetarian Hotel 2. Ambabhavani Hindu Military Hotel **First Floor** 3. S.L.V Associates **Second Floor** 4. 2 Residential Houses	C2-181F	665	36-46-83/1	25.63
98	Vemanna S/o Late Kalappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Krishna Motors 2. Central Bank of India ATM **First Floor** 3. Cosmos Co-op Bank Ltd.	C2-181G	665	36-47-29 7070531094	15.53
99	Dr. N.C. Shivaprakash S/o Chikkasiddhayya	Vacant Land	C2-98	89	3482034087 36-43-33	33.96
100	Rajanna T.	1. Kannadada Kai Ruchi 2. Nursery	C2-101	3832	21-77-6/1	101.91
101	J. Parvathi Bai W/o Munnaji Rao	Marble Choice	C2-102	3832	2475922780	73.93
102	Lakshmamma	Vacant Land	C2-102B	3832	21-116-20	22.18
103	M/s. Asiatech Properties Limited	Raheja Apartment	C2-181H	3730	Khatha No.11/1, 12/1	67.29
104			C2-181I	3730		89.04
105			C2-181J	3730		230.87
106	Girigowda and Shivaram V. on behalf of M/s. Regency Institute of Sports and Culture	Regency Institute of Sports and Culture (Regd.)	C2-181K	3588 3730	21-77-8/2-12	87.30
107	1. Anjanakumar 2. Pavan Kumar M.G.	V.K Sea Food	C2-182 C2-182A	3588	21-77-13	34.14 33.62
108	1. R. Satchidevi W/o Ramasanjeevayya 2. H. Ramasanjeevayya S/o Hanumegowda	**Ground Floor** 1. Mayura Biryani First Floor 2. D.Y. Fitness Gym **Second Floor** 3. Room	C2-183 C2-103	3588	21-77-13/1 27-77-13/2	143.18 5.18
109	S.P. Madappa S/o Puttayya	Preksha Granite & Marbles	C2-184 C2-104	3588	1728899954 21-77-16	71.62 11.56
110	Y. Srinivas S/o Yerappa S.	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Lakshmi Electricals **First & Second Floor** 2. Sri Siddaganga PG (Ladies)	C2-185 C2-105	3587	21-77-15 1720830508	67.92 13.33
111	1. B. Shantilal 2. B. Santosh 3. B. Mahaveer 4. B. Surendra S/o Late J. Bhavarilal	Manjushree Car	C2-186 C2-106	3586	21-45-3	66.58 14.74
112	Nagaraju B.S. S/o Late M.K. Shivanna	**Ground Floor** 1. Bharat Plastic 2. H.K.G.N. Puncture Shop **First Floor** 3. Genex Relocators **Second Floor** 4. Residential House	C2-187 C2-107	3585	21-77-17	29.98 8.01
113	Nagaraju B.S. S/o Late M.K. Shivanna	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Mahadeshwara Granthige Shop **First Floor** 2. Vardhaman Motors 3. Nala Investment **Second Floor** 4. A.V.S Law Associates **Third Floor** 5. 1 Room	C2-188 C2-108	3585	21-77-19	48.07 11.91
114	1. D. Deepak Yadav S/o G. Doreswamy 2. G. Krishnamurthy S/o Ganesh G.	**Ground Floor** 1. Nutrifresh Chicken Shop 2. Shadow Placks **First Floor** 3. Manappuram Gold Loan **Second Floor** 4. Magic Bus India Foundation	C2-189 C2-109	3584	21-77-20 4956271960	62.74 16.34
115	Jayamma M.	Vacant Shop	C2-190 C2-110	3583	21-77-21	49.92 19.41
116	Surya Narayanachari	**Ground Floor** 1. Marketing Solutions and Manufacture 2. Sri Nanjundeshwara Communication 3. Sagar Juice and Condiments **First Floor** 4. Residential House	C2-191 C2-192 C2-111 C2-112	3582	21-77-22	22.64 11.36 11.10 7.23
117	Ashraya R.P.	Arvi Ashraya Kalyana Mantapa	C2-193 C2-113	3579 3580 3581	21-77-14/23	2.14 51.26
118	S. Venkatesha S/o Karibasappa	M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Ltd.	C2-114	3576 3577 3578	12/26	111.15
119	Nagendra M. S/o D. Manikyam	1. Universal Motors 2. S & S Emission Testing Centre	C2-115	3575	21-77-29/2	49.21
120	Deepthi R. W/o U. Harsha	**Ground Floor** 1. Green Tech 2. Click In Cyber Cafe 3. Mahaveer Jewels **First & Second Floor** 4. NBP PU College	C2-116	3554	21-77-30	60.29
121	Shivashankaraya S/o Siddaveerappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Shiva Granthige Shop **First Floor** 2. Advocate Office	C2-117	3553	21-77-31	16.56
122	Mangala Lakshmi W/o H. Ramakrishnappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Malnad Donne Biryani **First Floor** 2. Muthoot Finance **Second Floor** 3. Kids & Kids Talent Max Education Institute **Third Floor** 4. 1 Residential House	C2-118	3552	5856171113	34.58
123	1. G. Pukaraj S/o Gokul Chand Jain 2. Mukesh Jain P. S/o G. Pukaraj	Building Under Construction	C2-119	3511 3512	21-77-32	34.42
124	K.N. Basavaraju S/o Nanjundayya	**Ground Floor** 1. C.N.B Decoration **First Floor** 2. Sri Diagnostic Laboratory	C2-120	3510	21-77-34	10.72

125	K.N. Harshith S/o K.P. Nagaraj	**Ground Floor** 1. Rudreshwara Furnitures **First Floor** 2. Residential House	C2-121	3509	21-77-35	8.92
126	Muniswamy alias Motappa	**Ground Floor** 1. S. Photo Shop 2. Ashwa Holidays 3. Sri Ganesh Fruits and Juice Centre 4. The Mangalore Scoops **First Floor** 5. Bamboo Gold Pvt. Ltd. **Second Floor** 6. Residential House	C2-122	3508	21-77-36	13.31
127	Jagannath Rao R.	Indian Institute of Fashion Technology	C2-124	3303	21-77-38/2	5.57
128	Shailaja Devi	Sri Venkateshwara Sweets and Bakery	C2-125	3303	21-77-38/3	6.48
129	1. Radhakrishna M. 2. Amarnath A.R.	**Ground Floor** 1. Rukmini Electricals 2. Lakshmi Ram Medicals **First Floor** 3. Godown **Second Floor** 4. 1 Residential House **Third Floor** 5. 1 Residential House	C2-126	3303	21-77-38/4A 21-77-38/4	16.69
130	1. K.V. Ramamurthy 2. Sukhdev Singh M.	**Ground Floor** 1. Gokul Books and Stationery 2. Kiran Electricals and Electronics **First & Second Floor** 3. Sri Vinayaka Men's PG	C2-127	3303	21-77-38/5 21-77-38/5-1 21-77-38/5-2	15.07
131	Maitradevi	Deekshit Hot Chips	C2-128	3288	21-77-30/39	9.05
132	Eeramma W/o Veerappa alias Eerappa	Sri Ganesh Fruit Juice Centre	C2-128A	3287	21-77-31/40	7.92
133	1. Gajalakshmamma 2. M. Vivekananda Swamy	**Ground Floor** 1. Buddha Global Heartcare 2. S.K.R Men's Hub 3. Navaratna Jewellers 4. G.M.S Consultancy Service **First Floor** 6. Muthoot Gold Loan	C2-129	3286	21-77-32/41	28.95
134	M. Muniraju S/o Late Muniswamappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Positive Tea **First Floor** 2. Sri Raghavendra Jyothishyalaya **Second & Third Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-130	3285	21-77-33/42	7.80
135	Nemichand Ranka S/o Sonalal Ranka	**Ground Floor** 1. Sha Sohan Lal Shobagmal Jain (Pawn Shop) **First & Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-130A	3284	21-77-34/43	8.02
136	Shamu B. S/o Patel M. Bhadrayya	1. Sri Brahmi Condiments 2. Santhosh Chemicals	C2-131	3283	21-77-44	16.19
137	Shobha Gamal Ranka S. S/o Sonal Ranka	Vardhaman Enterprises	C2-131A	3283	21-77-44/1	8.92
138	Ravi S.	**Ground Floor** 1. Dreams Mobile Zone 2. Vishesh Jewellers and Bankers 3. Unique Fashion 4. Ravi Photo Frame Works 5. Residential House **First Floor** 6. 1 Residential House	C2-132	3282	21-77-45	32.85
139	Manish Kumar S/o Roshan Lal	**Ground Floor** 1. R. Muneesh Paints and Hardware **First & Second Floor** 2. Residential House	C2-133	3281	21-77-55	24.35
140	P. Prabhuram Choudari P. S/o Poonaram	**Ground Floor** 1. Indira Cloth Centre **First Floor** 2. Residential House	C2-134	3280	21-77-43/1	20.45
141	Vishwanath Rao H. S/o Venkobarao	**Ground Floor** **1. Maharaja Tent House** **First, Second & Third Floor** **2. 1 Residential House**	C2-135	3279	21-77-58	23.58
142	Rajesh Kumar S. S/o Late G. Shantilal Bohra	**Ground Floor** 1. Vacant Shop **First & Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-136	3262	21-77-59	12.88
143	Seethadevi W/o Kanniyalal Joshi	**Ground Floor** 1. M. Kanniyalal Berulal Joshi Pawn Shop **First Floor** 2. K.R. Wodeyar Properties and Loans	C2-137	3262	21-77-59/3	15.51
144	Gangahanumayya S/o Late Gangayya	Passage	C2-137A	3262	21-77-59/1	3.96
145	Patil B. S/o Boregowda	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Pavan Jewellers **First Floor** 3. Vacant Shop **Second Floor** 4. Electrical Godown **Third Floor** 5. Residential House	C2-138	3262	21-77-59/2	17.36
146	Sarojamma G.	Sri Venkateshwara Sweets and Bakery, Godown	C2-139	3262	21-77-60	46.27
147	Manjunath K. S/o Late Kempalakkanna	**Ground Floor** 1. Pegeria Jewellers **First & Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-140	3261	21-77-61/1	19.47
148	Paramesh K. S/o Late Kempalakkanna	**Ground Floor** 1. Mubarak Restaurant **First & Second Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-140A	3261	21-77-61/2	20.13
149	Lingachari	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Parvathi Automobiles and Lubricants 2. Ratna Chicken Centre **First & Second Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-141	3261	21-77-61/3	28.70
150	P. Ravichandran S/o Late N.V. Ponnu Swamy	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Parvathi Automobiles and Lubricants **First & Second Floor** 2. Nishanth Costume **Third Floor** 1 Residential House	C2-142	3261	21-77-61/3-1	23.18
151	T.S. Umashankar S/o Late T.M. Sambashivayya	United Industries	C2-143	3261	9974579478	30.42
152	G. Muralidhar S/o D.M. Gangadhar	**Ground Floor** 1. Kanti Sweets **First Floor** 2. Vidyavinayaka Academy **Second Floor** 3. Amogha Education Trust (Regd.)	C2-144	3260	6300770917	23.29
153	B.M. Chandrashekhar S/o B.C. Mailarappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Happy Feet **First Floor** 2. 1 Residential House **Third Floor** 3. Godown	C2-145	3259	21-77-64	26.11
154	Rajanna C. S/o Late V. Chennanarasimhiah	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Shiva Furniture **First & Second Floor** 2. Carmel Prayer Hall	C2-146	3258	4118169162	26.93
155	B. Balaraju S/o Late B. Bhairappa	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Balaji Photo Frame Works **First Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-147	3257	21-77-66	14.50
156	Borayya B.	**Ground Floor** 1. P.K. Dooja Poojari Textiles **First, Second & Third Floor** 2. 1 Residential House	C2-147A	3257	21-77-66/1	12.96
157	B.S. Sumangala W/o Late Shankar B.T. B.S. Harsha S/o Late Shankar B.T.	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Venkateshwara Motors 2. Super Men's Parlour 3. Bharat Bedding House **First, Second & Third Floor** 4. 1 Residential House	C2-148	3256	2217900509	33.97
158	Lakshmi Narasimhiah B.N.	1. Sri Ganesh Condiments and Juice 2. Bajrang Paper Agency	C2-149	3255	21-77-68	24.77
159	G. Ramaiah S/o Guddathimmayya	1. Sri Ganesh Old Paper Mart 2. Hallimane Fish Meals	C2-150	3254	21-77-55/69-2/1 21-77-55/69-2	15.93
160	1. Pillamma W/o Ramakrishnappa 2. R. Nagesh S/o Ramakrishnappa	**Ground Floor** 1. New Key World **First Floor** 2. Shivananda Associates	C2-150A	3254	1716162012	2.87
161	Jayamma and Lakshmi Devamma	**Ground Floor** 1. Devi Chem 2. Residential House **First Floor** 3. 1 Residential House	C2-150B	3253	21-77-70	1.51
					Total (B)	**5608.99**

For the Purpose of Construction of K.H.B. Colony Station
Village: Agrahara Dasarahalli Taluk: Bengaluru North Hobli: Yeshwanthapura District: Bengaluru

162	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	1. Sri Balaji Granite and Marbles 2. Sri Krishna Granite 3. R.P. Fruits Shop 4. Megha Factory 5. Hotel	ST-24-01	6	-	467.60
163	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	Rajeshwari Timbers	ST-24-02	6	-	140.14
164	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	Janata Dal Office, Govindarajanagar Assembly Constituency	ST-24-03	6	-	248.08
165	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	Sripada Agro Foods	ST-24-03A	6	-	41.07
166	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	RCB Car Spa	ST-24-04	6	-	130.27
167	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	Manjunath Plastics	ST-24-04A	6	-	175.98
168	Subject to Court Order as per RTC records 1. Billiyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 2. Mariyappa S/o Meke Muniyappa 3.T.R. Muthu Selvan 4.T.R. Balasubramanyam 5. Deviki Ammal	Golden Tirumala Cars	ST-24-05	6	-	118.56
169	Dhanyatha Prasad B.S.	**Ground Floor** 1. Sri Maruti Military Hotel 2. Sri Manjunath Sweets **First Floor** 3. Godown	ST-24-08	3872	18-19-5 18-19-5/2	49.84
					Total (C)	**1371.54**
					Total Area (A) + (B) + (C)	**9355.36**

:- Abstract :-

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Area (in Sq. Mtr.)
1	Kempapura Agrahara	2374.83
2	Agrahara Dasarahalli	6980.53
	Total	**9355.36**

It is hereby informed to the Khathedars/ Anubhavadars/ Interested persons of the above mentioned Lands that under Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Section 28 (2) Information Notices were issued to the Notified Khathedars/ Anubhavadars and sent by Registered Post. As addresses of some of the Land Owners were not found the postal department has sent back the envelopes with remarks to this Office. Khathedars/ Claimants of the above mentioned Lands should consider this Notification as Information Notice under K.I.A.D. Act 1966 Section 28 (2).

it is hereby informed that if there are any objections to this Land Acquisition Process, objections should be submitted in writing, in person or through authorized person with necessary documents to this office, within 30 days from the date of publication in State Gazette. It is brought to the knowledge of the public that objections received after the time period will not be considered. The enquiry related to the Area of Kempapura Agrahara and Agrahara Dasarahalli villages has been fixed on **02.06.2026 at 11.30 AM.** It is informed to submit along with documents in writing or in person.

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer , KIADB (Head Office)

DIPR/DD-C.P./679/KSMCA/2026-27

Trump, Xi conclude 'very successful' talks but no deals announced

Two leaders stress stable ties despite unresolved disputes

BEIJING, PTI

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump on Friday hailed their talks as "historic" and "landmark", as the American leader wrapped up his three-day visit on a high note, but no deals on any contentious issues were announced.

Both Presidents, who held several rounds of talks covering a range of global issues, including the Iran war and bilateral trade frictions, concluded their discussions with a private meeting at Zhongnanhai, the well-guarded compound in Beijing where top leaders reside.

Trump and Xi walked and talked at the well-curated compound, occasionally stopping to admire the trees and flowers in the garden.

Trump described his trip to China as "very successful and unforgettable." "It is captivating the attention of the world. The two sides agreed on many things, made many deals, and worked out many issues," he said, according to a Chinese official readout. "This is good for both countries and the world. President Xi is my old friend, and I have a lot of respect for you, and we have forged a good relationship. The US-China relationship is very important, and it will definitely get better and better. I wish to keep this kind of sincere and deep discussion with President Xi. I very much look forward to welcoming President Xi in Washington," he said.

Noting that Trump's visit was a "historic" and "landmark" one, Xi said the two sides had set a "new vision" of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability.

"We have agreed on a new vision of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability, and reached important common understandings on keeping economic and trade ties stable, expanding practical cooperation in various fields, properly addressing each other's concerns, and enhancing communication and coordination on international and regional issues," Xi said, without disclosing details.

"President Trump wants to make America great again, and I am committed to leading the Chinese people to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he said, drawing a parallel to each other's vision for their countries. The two sides also agreed to strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional issues, Xi said.

Xi said the leaders had established "a new positioning for the constructive, strategic and stable relationship" between the world's two largest economies.

Both leaders also held talks on Thursday, during which Xi warned Trump that mishandling the Taiwan issue could trigger "clashes and even conflicts" between the two countries, the Chinese state media reported.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit to the Zhongnanhai Garden in Beijing on Friday. AFP

We agree to implement all trade deals: Beijing

BEIJING, AFP: China and the United States agreed to continue implementing "all" agreements reached previously and to establish councils for trade and investment, Beijing's top diplomat said in a statement on Friday.

The announcement followed a two-day summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump, during which the leaders discussed a range of contentious issues dividing the world's two largest economies, from trade to West Asia.

Trump touted "fantastic trade deals", announcing in interviews that China would purchase American soybeans and jets, though neither side has released official details or confirmations.

After Trump's departure from China, Xi accepted an invitation from the US president on Friday to visit the United States in the autumn.

"The delegations of the two countries reached overall positive results, including continuing to implement all consensus reached in previous consultations and agreeing to establish a trade council and an investment council," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Trump warns Taiwan on independence

BEIJING, AFP/AP/PTI: US President Donald Trump on Friday warned self-ruled Taiwan against pushing for formal independence after discussing the sensitive issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his three-day visit to Beijing.

"We're not looking to have wars, and if you kept it the way it is, I think China's going to be OK with that," Trump told Fox News anchor Bret Baier in an interview. "But we're not looking at somebody saying, 'let's go independent because the United States is backing us.'"

Trump also said he had not yet decided whether a major US arms sale to Taiwan would move forward.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday, Trump said he had not made a final determination on the proposed sale. "I will make a determination," he said.

Trump's Republican administration has already authorised the sale, but it has yet to proceed. China strongly opposes the deal and considers Washington's relationship with the self-governing island a central issue in US-China relations.

Hindujas retain top spot on UK rich list

LONDON, PTI: The Hinduja Group retained its position as the UK's richest family in the 2026 Sunday Times Rich List, released on Friday, under a new generation of brothers following the death of Gopichand Hinduja last year.

"Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family" emerged as the UK's richest for the fifth consecutive year, with an estimated wealth of 38 billion pounds, up from last year despite global headwinds.

The Hinduja Group operates in 38 countries and has investments across several sectors, including mobility, digital technology, banking and financial services, media, project development, lubricants and speciality chemicals, energy, real estate, trading and healthcare.

"The death of their father, Gopi Hinduja, at the age of 85 last November has handed his place at the top of the Sunday Times Rich List to his London-based sons, Sanjay and Dheeraj," the newspaper said.

"Sanjay, who turns 62 this month, chairs Gulf Oil International, while Dheeraj, 54, oversees automotive giant Ashok Leyland.

The latter has had a strong year, with the share price soaring by almost 40 per cent as more Indian motorists transition to electric vehicles.

Trump says patience with Iran is fading

China agrees Hormuz must reopen: US prez

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE/ DUBAI, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said his patience with Iran was running out and that Chinese President Xi Jinping had agreed during their talks in Beijing that Tehran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump later said he was considering whether to lift sanctions on Chinese oil companies buying Iranian oil that had been imposed by Washington ahead of his trip to China. However, his comments gave little indication of whether Beijing might use its influence with Tehran to end a conflict that China said should never have started.

"We've settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn't have been able to settle," Trump said on Friday after meeting Xi in Beijing.

Xi did not comment publicly on his discussions with Trump about Iran, although China's foreign ministry issued a blunt statement. "This conflict, which should never have happened, has no reason to continue," the ministry said.

"I am not going to be much more patient. They should make a deal," Trump said in an interview on Fox News.

After talks between Trump and Xi on Thursday, the White House said Xi had made clear China's opposition to any Iranian effort to charge tolls for using the strait. Trump also said Xi promised not to send military equipment to Iran.

Vessels sail in the Strait of Hormuz near Musandam, Oman, on Friday. REUTERS

Ceasefire with Iran a 'favour' to Pakistan

US President Donald Trump on Friday said he agreed to a ceasefire with Iran as a "favour" to Pakistan and ruled out further bombing of the West Asian nation, with which the US has been at odds for decades, PTI reports from Washington. The US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28, and hostilities have remained paused since April 8, when the two sides agreed to a ceasefire brokered by Pakistan. "We did the ceasefire as a request from another nation... we did it as a favour to Pakistan," Trump told reporters on Air Force One while returning from China to the US.

US scraps plan to deploy 4,000 troops to Poland

WASHINGTON, AFP

The United States has cancelled the planned deployment of 4,000 soldiers to Poland, US officials said on Friday, as Washington reorganises its forces in Europe after announcing plans to withdraw thousands of troops from Germany.

The head of United States European Command "received the instructions on the force reduction", General Christopher LaNeve, acting chief of staff of the US Army, said during a congressional hearing when asked about the cancelled deployment.

"I've worked with him in close consultation on what that force unit would be, and it made the most sense for that brigade not to carry out its deployment in theatre," LaNeve said, referring to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

The general added that some elements of the unit had already been sent overseas and that its equipment was in transit. Dan Driscoll, testifying alongside LaNeve, said the planned deployment was cancelled "a couple days ago".

Earlier this month, the Pentagon announced that Washington would withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany. Spokesman Sean Parnell said the move was expected "to be completed over the next six to twelve months".

The announcement came during a heated dispute between US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the US-Israeli conflict with Iran.

Israel and Lebanon agree to extend ceasefire by 45 days

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a 45-day extension of a ceasefire that US President Donald Trump declared on April 16, Reuters reports from Washington.

"The April 16 cessation of hostilities will be extended by 45 days to enable further progress," State Department spokesman Tommy Piggott said on Friday.

The State Department cast Israel-Lebanon talks - held in Washington on Thursday and Friday - as "highly productive" and said the countries would reconvene negotiations on June 2 and June 3.

CHARITY AUCTION

Anonymous bidder pays $9 million for lunch with Buffett and Curry

NEW YORK, AP/PTI

Someone paid more than $9 million to have lunch with basketball player Stephen Curry and Warren Buffett, and the legendary investor also promised to match the winning bid so both their favourite charities will benefit.

The auction on eBay was intended to revive an event that Buffett hosted for more than two decades and which raised $53 million for the GLIDE Foundation homeless charity in San Francisco. This year's auction, which wrapped up on Thursday night, also raised money for Curry's Eat. Learn.Play. Foundation, which he established with his wife, Ayesha Curry.

The anonymous winner paid $9,000,100 to secure a private lunch with Buffett and the Currys in the 95-year-old investor's hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, next month. "We're overwhelmed with gratitude for this opportunity, which reflects a shared belief that when different generations and institutions come together with purpose, we can create deeper and more lasting impact for the people who need it most," the Currys said.

The Buffett auctions started in 2000 and continued every year until the pandemic prompted a couple of years off. Starting in 2008, every winning bid for lunch with the investing giant topped $1 million. He discontinued the event after someone paid $19 million for a lunch in 2022. A follow-up auction in 2024 raised $1.5 million for a lunch with software titan Marc Benioff, but that version of the event did not last. Buffett reached out to the Currys earlier this year to ask them to join the lunch auction. Curry missed 27 games this year before returning to help the Golden State Warriors down the stretch.

Buffett stepped down as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway in January after six decades of leading the conglomerate. He remains chairman, but he recently sat through his first annual shareholder meeting in the audience instead of leading the event from the stage.

Indian national pleads guilty to smuggling individuals into US

NEW YORK, PTI: A 22-year-old Indian national has pleaded guilty to his role in a scheme to smuggle Indian nationals from Canada across the northern border into the United States.

Shivam, whose last name is not known, directed smuggling operations from at least October 2024 through June 2025, coordinating efforts to bring individuals illegally across the US-Canada border into New York, the US Department of Justice said on Thursday.

His role was to coordinate drivers to pick up individuals at the border and transport them further into the United States, specifically to stash houses in northern New York and hotels in Plattsburgh. Shivam, who expected to be paid for his role, paid drivers for each individual they smuggled. In January last year, he directed a co-conspirator to smuggle 12 people from India and the United Kingdom from Canada into the United States. He paid the co-conspirator $100 per person smuggled.

That same month, US Border Patrol agents attempted to stop two vehicles travelling in tandem near the US-Canada border. Both vehicles accelerated to evade agents, triggering a pursuit. One vehicle went off the road and became immobilised, while the other was later stopped in Mooers. The vehicles contained a total of 12 people who were being brought illegally into the US.

Shivam pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit alien smuggling and three counts of alien smuggling for financial gain. He is scheduled to be sentenced in September and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of 15 years in prison.

US seeks to indict Cuba's ex-prez Raul Castro

WASHINGTON, AFP: The United States is seeking to indict Raul Castro, the 94-year-old brother of late Cuban leader Fidel Castro, as Washington ramps up pressure on the communist-run island, US media reported Thursday.

An indictment of Castro would be a stunning twist in the deepening crisis in US-Cuba relations, with the island enduring constant power outages prompted by President Donald Trump's fuel blockade. Trump has repeatedly signalled that he wants to topple the communist government in Cuba.

Raul Castro, who succeeded his brother as president of Cuba, oversaw a historic 2015 rapprochement with the US under Barack Obama that Trump later reversed.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Protesters hold a press conference outside the federal courthouse, as the trial in Elon Musk's lawsuit over OpenAI's for-profit conversion continues, in Oakland, California, on Thursday. REUTERS

Harvey Weinstein's rape trial ends in mistrial

A US judge has declared a mistrial in the trial of disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein after jurors again failed to reach a verdict on allegations he sexually assaulted actress Jessica Mann, AFP reports from New York.

Weinstein, a central figure of abuse allegations that spurred the MeToo movement, is already in prison for other sex offenses, so he will remain behind bars despite the end of this case. "While we are disappointed that the proceedings ended with a mistrial, we deeply respect the jury system and sincerely thank all of the jurors for their time and dedication. For nearly a decade, Jessica Mann has fought for justice," District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement. It was the third time that Mann has taken the stand against Weinstein after a 2020 guilty verdict was overturned due to mishandling of witnesses, and a 2025 case ended in mistrial after a jury-room feud. The Oscar-winning Weinstein, 74, is already serving a 16-year prison term in a California case for the rape of a European actress more than a decade ago.

Russia, Ukraine swap prisoners

Russia and Ukraine exchanged 205 prisoners of war each on Friday as part of an agreement linked to a ceasefire brokered earlier this month by US President Donald Trump, Reuters reports from Moscow.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the returned Russian servicemen were in Belarus, where they were receiving necessary support.

Moscow said the United Arab Emirates had mediated the prisoner exchange. Ukraine also confirmed the return of its prisoners of war. The two countries agreed earlier this month to exchange 1,000 soldiers as part of the Trump-negotiated deal. The ceasefire, which lasted from May 9 to May 11, was marred by reports of violations from both sides.

Ukrainian prisoners of war after a swap at an unknown location in Ukraine. REUTERS

Jain manuscripts to be returned

The Wellcome Collection, one of the UK's leading museums exploring the human experience, on Friday announced a "landmark" commitment to return what is believed to be the largest collection of Jain manuscripts outside South Asia, PTI reports from London.

The return of more than 2,000 manuscripts held at its London collection for over a century follows dialogue and collaboration with the Institute of Jainology here. The collection spans 15th-century illustrated manuscripts to unique texts from the 19th century, covering religion, literature, medicine and culture, in Prakrit and Sanskrit, Gujarati, Rajasthani and early Hindi scripts. Some of the manuscripts include a "rare and magnificently illustrated," early 16th-century copy of Jain scripture called the 'Kalpasutra'.

3 Indians held for visa abuse

Three Indian nationals have been arrested in Sri Lanka's eastern port town of Trincomalee for allegedly overstaying without valid visas, PTI reports from Colombo.

The three, aged between 49 and 50, were arrested on Thursday in the Murigapuri area of Trincomalee. Police said they did not possess valid visas. In a separate raid, 14 foreign nationals, including Chinese and Malaysian citizens, were arrested in the coastal town of Kalutara on similar charges. Police have urged locals to provide information on foreigners abusing tourist visas to engage in organised cybercrime. Authorities have launched a crackdown on illegal cybercrime operations, and scores of foreigners, mostly Chinese and Indians, have been arrested in recent weeks in connection with the activities.

Actress Cara Delevingne and director Jordan Firstman pose during a photocall of the film "Club Kid" at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Friday. AFP

Biz Bytes

Silver prices plunge by Rs 21,600

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices plunged by Rs 21,600 to Rs 2.75 lakh per kg, while gold dropped by Rs 3,200 to Rs 1.62 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to a strong US dollar and heavy profit-booking by investors.

"Precious metals came under heavy selling pressure on Friday. Persistent concerns over elevated inflation, fuelled by higher energy prices and ongoing supply chain disruptions linked to US-Iran tensions, have strengthened the case for restrictive monetary policy," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst – Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Tata Steel profit jumps over 2-fold in Q4

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Steel on Friday posted more than a two-fold rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,965 crore for the January-March quarter of 2025-26, driven by higher revenues from its India operations. It had reported a net profit of Rs 1,201 crore during the same period a year ago, the company said.

During January-March, total income rose to Rs 63,518.60 crore, from Rs 56,679.11 crore in Q4 of 2024-25.

Wipro concludes acquisition of Mindsprint

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wipro on Friday said its acquisition of Olam Group's IT and digital services business, Mindsprint, has been concluded, following the completion of relevant approvals. The acquisition was announced on April 6, as part of Wipro's 8-year strategic transformation deal win from Olam Group, a $50-billion food and agri-business based in Singapore, majority-owned by Temasek Holdings. Wipro said the engagement with Olam Group expands its farm-to-fork capabilities, scaling the impact of Wipro Intelligence across the food and agri-business industry.

Flipkart India's e-commerce market leader

NEW DELHI, PTI: Flipkart remains India's e-commerce market leader by GMV, with a 50-60% share, and has further strengthened its position by adding 8.5 million weekly active users week-on-week. While an ICICI Securities report said Flipkart has extended its lead over rivals, CLSA said its sustained growth reflects continued traction across high-engagement categories and rising repeat usage, helping it widen its lead over peers.

GCCs drive Grade A office space rental growth in Q1

Bengaluru records the highest growth of 11% in office rentals

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Aided by an increasing demand from the global capability centres (GCCs), the Grade A office markets have witnessed a robust growth of up to 20% in rentals during the first quarter of 2026. According to data trends put out by property consultant Anarock, average office monthly rentals across the top 7 cities rose to Rs 93 per square feet.

Bengaluru recorded the highest growth of 9% YoY in 2025 against 2024, and the city continued this trend by recording the highest (11%) growth in Q1 2026, against the preceding quarter (Q4 2025).

Average rentals for Grade A office space in Bengaluru went up to Rs 105 per sq ft per month in Q1 2026, compared to Rs 95 per sq ft per month in Q1 2025, recording a growth of 11% YoY. Bengaluru is followed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, where rentals rose to Rs 152 per sq ft in Q1 2026 from Rs 141 per sq ft, an 8% growth over the same period a year ago. Rentals in NCR, Chennai, and Hyderabad went up 7% YoY.

The premium in rentals is owing to a huge demand for Grade A offices by GCCs, MNCs, and institutional occupiers. GCCs leased 9.87 million sq ft across the country, with Bengaluru contributing 40%.

A tech-park near Bellandur, Outer Ring Road, in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Grade A buildings provide F&B, wellness, retail, smart building tech, and high security infrastructure, which are mostly not available in mid-tier assets, Anarock said.

Multinational corporations insist on LEED and IGBC certifications, effectively ruling out mid-tier buildings from consideration — even with good location attributions. GCCs and financial services companies that operate around the clock need reliable power, IT infrastructure, and building management.

New supply of Grade A office space

The top 7 cities added 52 million sq ft of new Grade A office supply in 2025, up 8% YoY. The Southern markets led with 52% of new supply — Bengaluru added around 14 million sq ft (+12% YoY), Chennai saw a 72% YoY supply boom (signalling confidence in its tightening fundamentals), and Pune was the national star with 103% YoY growth. Hyderabad saw a 31% drop to about 8.8 million sq ft on a more conservative phased delivery pipeline.

Interestingly, Q1 2026 saw new office completions decline 18% on an annual basis — from approx. 10.53 million sq ft in Q1 2025 to approx. 8.60 million sq ft in Q1 2026. This decline could be partially attributed to the war in West Asia and its impact on the overall global market.

Peush Jain, Managing Director — Commercial Leasing & Advisory, ANAROCK Group, says, "India's Grade A office market had its best year on record in 2025. The demand anchor were the Southern markets, which absorbed a combined 29.35 million sq ft in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai. These markets accounted for half of India's total net office absorption in 2025. Bengaluru remains the top contributor, with 14.95 million sq ft, a 26% national share. But it is now witnessing moderating growth at 1% YoY."

India's trade deficit widens on high oil, gold import bills

No policy to curb non-essential imports, says commerce secy

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's trade deficit widened to $28.38 billion in April, sharply higher than $20.67 billion recorded the previous month, as elevated crude oil prices and supply disruptions due to the West Asia conflict pushed up the import bills, as per official data on Friday.

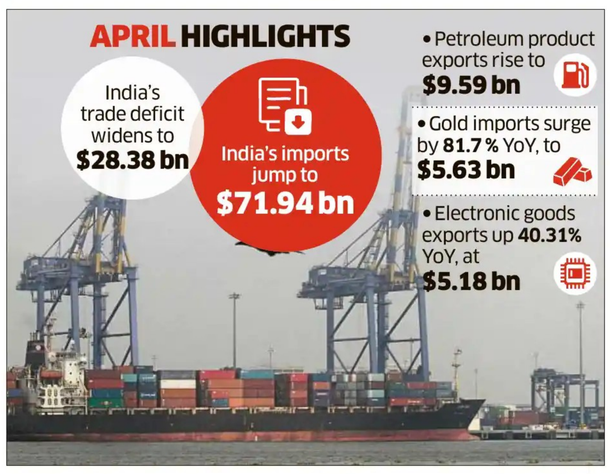
India's imports jumped to $71.94 billion in April, from $65.38 billion recorded in the same month last year, registering a growth of 10%. In March, India's merchandise imports stood $59.59 billion.

Despite the supply-chain disruptions, there was positive growth in exports. Merchandise exports rose to $43.56 billion in April, from $38.28 billion recorded in the same month last year. In March, it stood $38.92 billion.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said the increase in the value of exports and imports are largely due to the increase in prices.

Petroleum product exports from India jumped to $9.59 billion in April 2026, from $7.12 billion in the same month last year, registering a growth of 34.66%. Gold imports surged by 81.7% year-on-year, to $5.63 billion in April. It also posted an 84% jump on a month-on-month basis.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to avoid gold purchases for a year to conserve forex reserves.


APRIL HIGHLIGHTS
India's trade deficit widens to $28.38 bn
India's imports jump to $71.94 bn
• Petroleum product exports rise to $9.59 bn
• Gold imports surge by 81.7% YoY, to $5.63 bn
• Electronic goods exports up 40.31% YoY, at $5.18 bn

Following the PM's remark, the government earlier this week sharply increased import duty on gold, silver and platinum.

Agrawal said the government has no policy to curb imports of non-essential items.

"There is a clarion call by the PM to reduce non-essential consumption, but as such there is no policy to curb non-essential imports as of now," he said.

India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) in April rose to $80.80 billion, registering a growth of 13.59% over the same month last year.

Total imports (merchandise and services combined) for April 2026 is estimated at $88.61 billion, registering a growth of 7.67% year-on-year, as per data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Electronic goods exports jumped by 40.31% year-on-year to $5.18 billion in April. Engineering goods exports increased from $9.52 billion in April 2025, to $10.35 billion in April 2026, registering a growth of 8.76%.

"Geopolitical tensions in different parts of the world have led to massive trade disruptions. But despite these challenges, the Indian engineering sector has shown remarkable resilience," said Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India.

Chadha remarked that the upcoming months would be challenging for exporters due to a jump in input costs. "The engineering sector has been witnessing a sharp increase in input costs. Besides, logistics costs have skyrocketed. Steel and its products continue to face high tariffs in the US, our biggest export market," he said.

"We hope the government will continue to provide necessary policy support," Chadha added.

Rupee hits record low of 96.14/USD

Settles at fresh closing low of 95.81 against greenback

MUMBAI, PTI

The Indian rupee crashed below the 96/USD mark on Friday, before closing at an all-time low of 95.81 against the US dollar, as elevated crude oil prices and inflation concerns added to its downside pressure.

The rupee has registered over 6% losses so far this year, and in the past six trading sessions, has depreciated nearly 2%, as Iran war risk escalation pushed crude oil prices higher. The dollar index moved northwards after strong US retail sales and stable labour market data reduced expectations of aggressive Federal Reserve rate cuts.

Forex traders said global uncertainties, relatively high valuations, and the lack of AI-led investment opportunities have weighed on capital flows.

Moreover, weak net FDI inflows are likely to exert pressure on the balance of payments, while rising crude prices stoke inflation worries.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 95.86, then slumped to a record low of 96.14 in intraday trade, registering a fall of 50 paise from its previous close.

The USD/INR pair finally settled at its lowest-ever closing level of 95.81 against the dollar, registering a fall of 17 paise from its previous close, helped by likely RBI intervention.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.15, higher by 0.34%.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading up 3.14% at $109.04 per barrel in futures trade. In the equity market, Sensex fell 160.73 points to settle at 75,237.99, while Nifty dipped 46.10 points to 23,643.50.

IT/BT minister Priyank Kharge at the consultation with drone industry representatives in Bengaluru on Friday.

State plans drone flight testing facility at Chikkaballapur

BENGALURU, DHNS: In an effort to position Karnataka as a national hub for drone technology, the state government plans to develop a dedicated drone flight testing facility at Chikkaballapur, in collaboration with the Drone Federation of India (DFI), and provide supporting infrastructure to drone-tech companies.

It is also planning to launch an annual 'Bengaluru Drone Festival', combining drone racing, hackathons, innovation showcases, and public engagement, said IT/BT minister Priyank Kharge.

Speaking after a consultation meeting with drone-tech startups and key stakeholders, the minister said the drone test flight facility will be dedicated exclusively for the industry and startups.

"Our focus is on creating shared testing facilities, simplifying regulatory pathways, and enabling a strong ecosystem for startups and industry to innovate and scale. Drones have the potential to significantly transform governance and public service delivery, and we are working to ensure Karnataka becomes the preferred hub for this next wave of innovation," Kharge said.

Expanding the use of drone technologies across key sectors for improved governance and service delivery is among the focus areas of the government, he said.

The government will enable early-stage access for industry alongside parallel efforts on institutional frameworks, partnerships, and supporting infrastructure.

The government's focus is on streamlined approvals, SOPs, and enabling frameworks for emerging drone applications, skilling and ecosystem development, strengthening talent pipelines, and startup support mechanisms, he said.

Bengaluru leads startup hiring with 20% share, says report

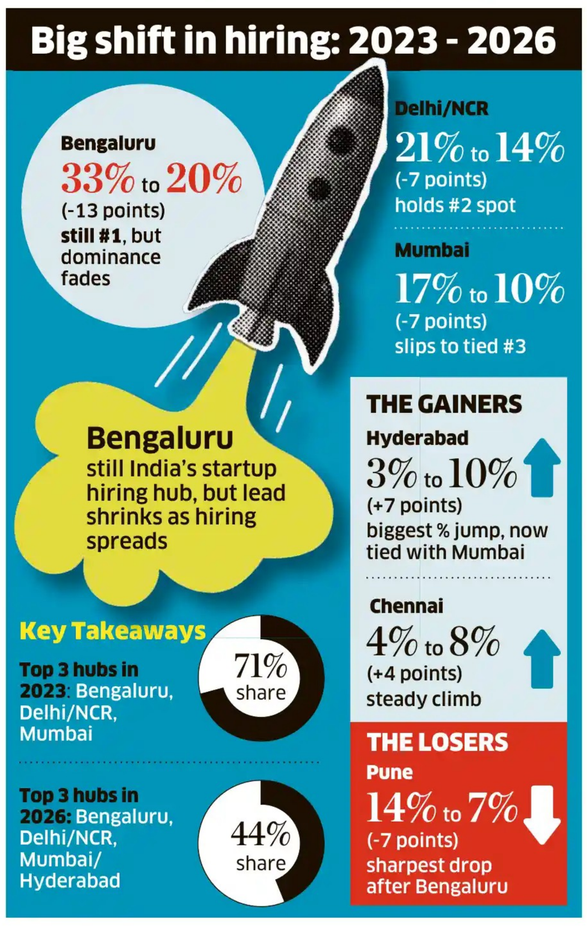
UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru continues to remain India's dominant startup centre as its share of jobs remains at 20% in April 2026, compared to 21% in the year-ago period. Delhi-NCR and Mumbai follow with 14% and 10%, respectively. Though Bengaluru remains the largest hiring hub, its share has declined as startup activity becomes more geographically-distributed.

Tier-2 and 3 account for 36% of all startup jobs — up from 31% in April 2025. This signals structural redistribution, according to the latest Insights Tracker report by jobs and talent platform foundit. Tier-2 cities such as Jaipur, Kochi, Indore and Coimbatore are collectively accounting for a growing share of new startup job creation, as 12% of new startups are now establishing themselves in these markets.

Interestingly, Hyderabad's share of startup jobs has doubled from 5% in April 2024, to 10% in April 2026.

The report revealed that the startup hiring landscape is shifting from broad-based, volume-led recruitment to a more specialised, productivity-led model, with startup jobs projected to grow 12% YoY in 2026. Startup jobs increased from 116,080 in April 2025, to 130,010 in April 2026, adding about 14,000 new jobs over the year. The report also mentioned that fresher hiring has declined from 41% to 36%, while mid-level professionals now account for nearly one in two startup hires.



FinTech, HealthTech, SaaS and EV mobility sectors continue to lead, while AI-native startups represent the most-dynamic hiring cluster.

As far as industries are concerned, IT-software and services extend its dominance to 34% of all startup jobs. The report said that within this, AI and data roles account for about a third of all IT hiring in startups. This signals that the startup economy is shifting from general development to intelligence-led product-building. BFSI follows with 12%, as the industry is supported by continued innovation in payments, embedded finance and wealth tech. Healthcare has seen a consistent rise, from 6% in April 2024, to 11% in April 2026.

"India's startup hiring market is entering a more mature phase," said Tarun Sinha, CEO of foundit. "Startups are no longer hiring purely for scale; they are hiring for capability, productivity, and business impact. The rise of AI-led roles, stronger demand for mid-level professionals, and growing participation from Tier-2 and 3 cities show that the ecosystem is becoming deeper, more distributed, and more skill-driven," he added.

Startups are now increasingly hiring experienced professionals, as the share of professionals with 4-6 years of experience rose to 31% in April 2026, up from 28% in the same period last year. Professionals with 7-10 years of experience are also seeing increased hiring, as the share rose from 15% in April 2025, to 17% in 2026. However, the entry level declined from 41%, to 36% in April 2026.

Rapido raises $240 million in funding led by Prosus

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rapido has raised $240 million in fresh capital, led by Prosus, with participation from WestBridge Capital and Accel, as well as other investors, as part of a $730 million primary and secondary financing round. This values the company at $3 billion on a post-money basis.

This investment comes at a time when demand across Tier-2+ markets is accelerating, even as Rapido continues to expand its mobility offerings in Tier-1 cities. The capital will be deployed to expand demand by creating new markets and deepening existing ones, grow the captain network and expand earning opportunities at scale, and invest in technology and people, Rapido said.

This includes deepening Rapido's footprint across high-growth markets, strengthening first and last-mile connectivity, and improving platform efficiency to deliver a more-reliable and seamless experience, alongside focused investments in talent. Aravind Sanka, Co-founder, Rapido, said, "We are going deeper into markets where demand exists, but supply remains fragmented, building the density that gives captains reliable, predictable earnings. We will sharpen our focus on strengthening supply, building technologies, and expanding our multi-modal footprint, with far-greater speed and intent."

Gautam Adani to settle with Securities and Exchange Commission, nears end of US legal woes

BLOOMBERG: Gautam Adani is on the cusp of ending a series of legal threats in the US, paving the way for Asia's richest man to ramp up investment and capital raising after months of battling allegations including fraud and bribery.

Gautam Adani

Adani and his nephew Sagar agreed to pay a total of $18 million to settle Securities and Exchange Commission allegations they made false and misleading representations about Adani Green Energy Ltd., according to a proposed agreement filed in federal court on Thursday.

The SEC alleged in a November 2024 lawsuit that Adani spearheaded an effort to pay or promise hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian officials to win contracts Adani Green needed to develop India's largest solar power plant project. The Justice Department is also moving to drop fraud charges against Gautam Adani in a parallel criminal case, according to sources.

Most dollar bonds of the Adani Group rose. An Adani Green Energy note due in 2042 jumped more than 1 cent, the most since early April, to 98.4. A security from Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone due in 2041 gained 0.8 cent.

Shares of the flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. rose as much as 3.3% during Mumbai trading on Friday, before erasing most of those gains. The stock has climbed more than 21% this year, heading for its first annual advance since 2022. Adani Green Energy closed 2.5% lower.

"I would separate the legal event from the information event," Ben Charoenwong, associate professor of finance at INSEAD. "The civil settlement with no admission of wrongdoing, alongside dropped criminal charges, is a procedural close. It's not an adjudication on the underlying bribery allegations."

A settlement would mark a milestone for the Adani Group, one of India's most powerful companies whose interests include energy, airports and a data center business that's part of a $100-billion digital infrastructure push. It would help the conglomerate return to international capital markets and resume its aggressive expansion strategy, following allegations of market manipulation by short-seller Hindenburg Research in 2023 that Adani has also denied.

The SEC had said that Adani and his nephew falsely touted the company's compliance with antibribery principles and laws in connection with a $750 million bond offering. Adani Green raised at least $175 million from investors in the US, the SEC said at the time.

When the sun sets on G B Road

Aashna (name changed) fell into sex work in Delhi's red-light district after being duped by her 'lover'. **Nitya Choubey**, who befriended her, examines the lives and struggles of the women who call the road home

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

April 30, 2024. It was around 4.30 pm. The terrace cafe did not have many visitors, possibly owing to the summer heat. I ordered a plate of chicken biryani and a beer, in the hope of making Aashna (name changed), sitting right across the table, feel comfortable. It worked, quite literally. After a few generous gulps of the drink, her body relaxed, and she began to speak.

"As soon as I went into labour, I started consuming large amounts of ghee to ease the delivery. That was my third day inside Lok Nayak Hospital (a government facility). On the fourth day, I gave birth to a girl, and two days later, I was out of the hospital," said Aashna, a 30-year-old sex worker. She had given birth on February 15, 2024. This was her second child. Her first, a boy, was three years old at the time.

I had met Aashna for the first time only a few months before this lunch date, on August 6, 2023, at a health clinic run by Sewa Bharti on G B Road. Sewa Bharti is the social service wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The free Sunday clinic operated for a few hours in the morning.

That afternoon at the terrace cafe, her tale went on with a heroic undertone. "My days inside the hospital were difficult and lonely. Even when I had nobody by my side, I knew I would steer through," she said, emptying the beer can.

Love trap

Not much is known to me about Aashna's childhood, except that she hails from Karnataka, somewhere near Mysuru. In her early teens, she eloped from her parents' house with her so-called lover. It turned out to be a trap that landed her inside the biggest red-light area of Delhi — G B Road.

She recalls her early years at G B Road with distaste. Her first supervisor was a middle-aged sex worker who would beat Aashna if she stepped 'out of bounds'. And Aashna's daily earnings also went to her. It was only years later that she started to draw scant savings from her earnings.

The first time I met her, Aashna had a baby bump. Vandana, the woman who managed the clinic, was firmly advising Aashna not to abort her child. Aashna nodded disinterestedly and left. It was around noontime. While most women had retired to bed by that time, a handful, like Pema (name changed), waited for customers on the road.

The stout and charming woman noted her age as 35, though she looked much older. We lit a cigarette together. "Most women are addicted to alcohol and gutka. Cigarettes are costly. But I have been smoking for a long time now. I picked up the habit from a regular customer. It helps me bond better with some clients," she said. She was born in Arunachal Pradesh and has lived most of her life here.

Garstin Bastion Road (or G B Road) dates back to Mughal times. Located adjacent to the iconic Ajmeri Gate of the walled city of Shahjahanabad (17th-century Delhi), the road once had five stacked kothas (brothels). Then, the 'tawaifs' (courtesans) would perform mujra (a Mughal-era classical dance) for kings and rich zamindars. Things changed when the British annexed the capital city in 1803. After the exile of the last Mughal emperor of Delhi, Bahadur Shah Zafar, the rich patronage of the kothas came crashing down, and courtesans began to be known as 'prostitutes'. Over time, the five brothels were consolidated by British commissioner Garstin, and the road was named Garstin Bastion Road. The strategic location of G B Road, right next to Chawri Bazaar, the business hub of North Delhi, attracts many businessmen. During the daytime, the lane is swarming with customers shopping at hardware stores and machine warehouses. By night, it is controlled by some 70 to 85 brothels, housing anywhere between 2,000 and 5,000 sex trafficking victims, including women and children.

All of the women I met at G B Road quoted their age as around 30. A few had children or were married. On any given day, the more experienced ones earn between Rs 300 to Rs 500 per client. The younger girls are managed by supervisors who receive payment on their behalf. But women of Aashna's age tend to have more autonomy.

Second pregnancy

After our lunch at the terrace cafe in Paharganj, Aashna and I began to foster a more cordial friendship. We met again seven months later, on November 23, 2024, for our second beer. Aashna's body had fully recovered postpartum.

While scrolling through photographs of her daughter, Aashna's phone rang. It was a video call from Faizaan, her middle-aged boyfriend, who works as an electrician in Chawri Bazaar. Aashna's son lives with Faizaan's family, while the newborn daughter stays with her.

Both of Aashna's children were born at Lok Nayak Hospital's emergency ward, free of cost.

Role of quacks

Dr Ritu Saxena, who supervises the emergency unit of Lok Nayak Hospital at Delhi Gate, has met sex workers on two occasions: while attending to medicolegal cases (related to rape or sexual assault), or during labour pain. "If the woman is fit to willingly abort (within 24 weeks of conception) or deliver her child, we admit her without judgement. First aid often starts before we enquire about the patient's Aadhaar card," she says.

Dr Ritu noted that women working and living inside the brothels suffer from anaemia due to meagre nutrition. This leads to serious complications during pregnancy. The government hospital is safe, but it does not take up deliveries or abortions of physically unfit women or underage ones without an FIR. At such times, pimps turn to medical quacks, risking the pregnant woman's life to avoid legal complications.

Owing to their work hours — typically 4 pm until 10 am the next morning — women suffer from lifestyle diseases like diabetes, respiratory diseases like tuberculosis due to damp brothel walls, undiagnosed urinary tract infections, and STDs.

Chawri Bazaar is home to several self-acclaimed physicians operating within a kilometre radius of G B Road. Treatment at such clinics is technically accessible, yet carries a risk of stigma. No male physician agreed to discuss G B Road with me. Eventually, a female doctor, Rukhsana Parveen, agreed to speak with me. She holds a BMS degree from Jamia Hamdard University and runs a small clinic in Shahganj, Chawri. Looking at the limited resources and the size of her clinic, much like several others in the area, abortions or deliveries seemed out of the question. "It was for a case of severe fever that I met a woman from G B Road. They don't come here often. It maybe because of shame. The consultation fee is not much — Rs 50 per sitting," said the 50-year-old.

Second in line come the private clinics, which remain out of budget, and third is medical aid organised by non-state unions or politically affiliated groups. These are few and far between. Medical support from NGOs is much sought after. Among them is the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). Medical volunteers regularly visit sex workers and also build trust with the women. What also helps is the free distribution of condoms by the Delhi State AIDS Control Society and other non-state-funded programmes. But, the scope and resources in these cases remain limited.

There are a bunch of other healthcare options women from G B Road are unable to access, like the AAP Mohalla (neighbourhood) clinics (renamed Ayushman Arogya Mandirs under the BJP). The purpose of Mohalla clinics is to provide general medical consultations for free. Not only are these government-run health centres not equipped for deliveries or abortions, but they also require an Aadhaar card for admission. In these compact and busy clinics, anonymity is hard to maintain.

There is no targeted state policy on healthcare for women living on G B Road. Ujjawala (a comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation) operates at the national level. It, however, does not include G B Road or any other red-light area in the NCR. The last available data, from 2019, notes the rehabilitation of around 5,291 women across India, the number of girls suspected to be present on G B Road alone.

The road also lacks basic childcare support like the Integrated Child Development Service's (ICDS) anganwadis.

The only Urdu-Hindi government school in the area was last operational in the 1990s. "I was a young volunteer at the school then. Other teachers hesitated to visit G B Road. With no teachers, the number of students diminished. Eventually, the school shut down on the pretext of absenteeism and lack of strength," said Lalitha Nayak, founder of the Society for Participatory Integrated Development (SPID), an NGO fostering children born on G B Road under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Abuse and violence

In 2012, SPID was allotted two rooms and a toilet inside the government school building to run a 24×7 hostel. The hostel can accommodate around 70 children on a given day.

"Why don't you send your children to Miss Lalitha's foster care?" I asked Aashna.

"G B Road can never be a place to raise a child," said Aashna, referring to the unending cycle of violence involving drunk clients, rowdy policemen, and controlling brothel supervisors. By our third meeting over beers, on January 18, 2025, it became evident. That day, Aashna met me with a swollen eye and a broken arm. The bruise under her eye was from her boyfriend, Faizaan, while her arm was injured by a drunk client.

"The client pushed me from the bunk bed, and I fell on my shoulder," she said, referring to the honeycomb-like structure of her brothel. The customer was thrown out, but left her with an injury that cost her Rs 15,000. Still, the emotional pain from Faizaan's act of domestic abuse ran deeper.

There have been violent scuffles between them in the past, but none as serious as this one. The fight began after Aashna decided to drink with a client and quickly escalated towards domestic violence. The police pushed for an out-of-court settlement, and Aashna, too, preferred this route, except this time an FIR became imperative. After the incident, Faizaan's family has turned its back on Aashna. However, Faizaan wants to reconcile.

A birthday party

On February 15, 2025, Faizaan's house glittered with flyers and balloons for Aashna's daughter's birthday. She had turned one. It was a small apartment in East Delhi's Akshardham, with a tiny kitchen and a windowless room. On the guest list was another family I knew nothing about, Aashna's mother, and Faizaan. The matter between Aashna and him had taken a backseat that day.

Aashna's 53-year-old mother is aware of her daughter's profession, but no longer objects to it. After her father, a daily wage labourer, abandoned the family, her mother struggled to make ends meet. So the last time Aashna visited her hometown, her mother chose to come back with her to Delhi.

Before long, it was time to cut the cake. I pulled out my phone and took a photo of Aashna and Faizaan with their daughter as they cut the cake. The others clapped. In that moment, I understood what Faizaan offered her — dignity in a residential neighbourhood.

Rehabilitation and security

The question that keeps circling back is this: why hasn't Aashna tried to stop working at G B Road? "I ran away with my regular customer, nearly a decade ago. It worked briefly but the relationship soon turned abusive. So I came back," Aashna revealed.

Illiteracy and limited exposure meant she already had few options. On top of that, her Aadhaar card lists G B Road as her address. The address makes it difficult to book an auto, let alone a house or a job. Without identity and income proof, such as a PAN card, e-shram card or a birth certificate, she is ineligible for reservations in government jobs and educational institutes. This also cuts down her options for health benefits like free treatment at private hospitals, reserved percentage of IPD beds or financial aid under Delhi Arogya Kosh. Other government schemes that provide housing at highly subsidised rates, financial aid to single mothers, and the recently launched Delhi Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Scheme, remain out of reach.

Sex work remains her only source of income. Years of experience have earned Aashna clients, survival tricks, and occasional companionship. But she has to work every day, during pregnancy, through menstruation, with a bone injury and without a break.

Sex workers need holistic rehabilitation: from income and identity to housing, healthcare and childcare. The current government apparatus has clearly not reached the majority of women. There is also no documented data on the health and demography of women. The little that is known comes from NGOs and personal accounts of medical volunteers.

The dreams and realities of a woman living at G B Road often do not change.

"I don't know which party will make a difference, but I have voted many times. Inflation and cylinder price hikes haunt me today as they did 10 years ago. My only hope is to educate my son and get out of here," said Lata (name changed), a resident.

Like this story?
Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

A rebel redefining Indian classical music

Leading sitar artiste Purbayan Chatterjee speaks to Barkha Kumari about making music with openness and conscience

Sitar player Purbayan Chatterjee has built a reputation for pushing the boundaries of Indian classical music — whether through Shastriya Syndicate, the country's first Indian classical band, or albums like 'Stringstruck', and 'Unbounded-Abaad', which brought jazz, rock and world music into dialogue with ragas. That sensibility also found its way to the OTT series 'Bandish Bandits', where he performed a grunge version of 'Garaj Garaj' on electric sitar. His latest project continues the exploration of electronic music, progressive rock and jazz-funk. A nine-track album, 'Feathered Creatures' is a collaboration with Grammy-winning guitarist Mark Lettieri of Snarky Puppy.

These experiments began "almost as an act of rebellion". Chatterjee belongs to the Senia Maihar Gharana, founded by Allauddin Khan. "I was always told Indian classical music is the best art form. You don't need to look beyond it," he says. But that only fuelled his curiosity about what lay outside it.

Shastriya Syndicate, formed in 2007, became the first expression of that rebellion. At first, the older generation, the "so-called gatekeepers", lauded the 'new kid on the block'. But as he gained recognition, the attitude shifted. "Why do you need to play fusion?" people asked. The criticism brought self-doubt, but he persisted until he found "the truth".

The 49-year-old says cross-genre music works only when an artiste has a strong grounding in one tradition and is open to learning others. He traces this advice to acclaimed American jazz guitarist Pat Metheny. "He told me, 'If you want to play across genres, you have to learn them. Start with 50 jazz standards, things like 'Fly me to the moon' and 'My funny Valentine'." He then listened to jazz legends like Miles Davis, Ornette Coleman and John Coltrane, after which he moved on to rock, especially the music of Mark Knopfler and Dire Straits. Later, his wife introduced him to contemporary pop songs.

His openness to new ideas runs through the interview. He credits the growing live entertainment scene for making it possible for him and flautist Rakesh Chaurasia to finally take their 2022 album 'Saath Saath' on an India tour. The delay, he says, was to ensure everything was "right", from sound technicians to aesthetics.

And while there is growing criticism that social media is replacing the habit of listening to full songs with bite-sized clips, he argues it's nothing new. "Even in the '60s and '70s, HMV released wax records where artistes like Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Omkarnath Thakur recorded ragas lasting just 40 seconds," he says, adding, "My father's guru, Nikhil Banerjee, used to say that a great artiste can offer the same satisfaction in three minutes as in three hours." The secret, he says, lies in rigorous training and making art with conscience.

Purbayan Chatterjee's latest album is a collaboration with guitarist Mark Lettieri of Snarky Puppy.

A secretive story

Radhika D Shyam tells the story of a magical grandma who can hear what objects have to say

Hey there, I'm sorry I can't reveal my name. It's a secret because I want to remain anonymous. I'll tell you why!

I have many friends, but my best friend is my grandma. She's the reason why I have to be secretive about myself. You see, she's a DoT... no, not a doc as in doctor, but a DoT, a Doctor of Things; and only she and I know of this. She hasn't told anyone about it, not even my parents, because it's a magical thing, and she might just lose her powers if more than two people learn of it. Telling you readers is okay, I guess, because you don't know who I am. And I'm never going to tell you either.

About two months after my ninth birthday, I fell ill with jaundice. I was feeling very low. My grandma came to stay with me since my parents had to travel for work. They were relieved to get her help. It was then that she let me into her secret. Initially, I thought it was a joke to cheer me up. I soon realized it was amazingly true.

She has this magical stethoscope with which she can hear what the objects want to say but can't because they have no life. These things speak through her, and I can just about sense a vibration in her throat but can see no lip movements. Unbelievable, isn't it? Let me share some case studies of the few things we tried it on.

The couch in a gruff, muffled voice:
"Please be kind to this poor couch.
I can't bear it when you lie or slouch.
When you fall hard on me,
it hurts big time. Ouch!
Please sit upright.
It's good for you
to stay in shape, and
for me too."

Believe me, after I heard this, I sat gently on the couch and felt sorry for all the cruelty inflicted on it till then.

Next was GI Joe in an authoritative, soft tone:
"Oh, boy! I'm just a toy.
Owned by a boy till I give him joy.
And when he's grown, I'm
forgotten and
thrown.
Why can't he see
that I'd love to be
with just anybody
who will play with me?"

No more throwing toys in the garbage when they're old, I promised myself, and decided to give them to other children and bring happiness to their lives.

The doorknob had a nice baritone:
"You grab me and turn me on your way out.
I'm forced to put up with your unkind clout.
When you bang the door, you're being rude and mean.
But now and then, do wipe me clean.
To kill the germs — not just for sheen."

And true to its word, on close scrutiny Grandma and I found the knobs of all the doors quite dirty. We wiped them clean with antiseptic. She made me promise to wash my hands before every meal or snack.

One day, when I was fussing over lunch as usual, she brought out the magic stethoscope. This is what the food on the plate had to say in a sing-song, high-pitched voice:

"I have travelled
far and long,
so to shun me will
be wrong.
You're lucky to get
me. I'll make you
strong."

Then Grandma told me of the long journey of all the ingredients from the lands of farmers to the village dealers, then to the wholesalers and retailers.

"Your mother has carefully selected all that is there on this plate," she explained, "and cooked a meal for your well-being.

There are millions of children in this world who sleep hungry every night. You are blessed, so don't ever waste food."

I reformed totally after that talk and thanked God for the gift of food.

I must share the thoughts of the contents of my elder sister's wardrobe. They said,

"We are so many clothes meant to be
worn
till we are old and torn.
But the picture inside is forlorn,
for most of us are hardly used.
'Coz your sister is rather confused."

My sister shopped like crazy and hoarded clothes as if the world would soon run short of them.

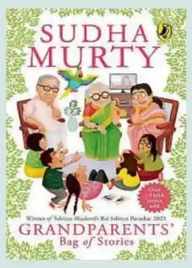
Suddenly, my attention was drawn to my shoes. Grandma read my thoughts and complied. This is what the shoes had to say in a peppy voice full of life:

"We take you here
and we take you
there.
We take you almost
everywhere.
We're useful — an
essential pair.
We cover your feet and
protect the sole.
But we're never given
a thought through the
rigmarole."

Never a dull moment with my grandma's special powers! I bet you envy me!

4 BOOKS ON FAMILY

International Day for Families was observed on May 15

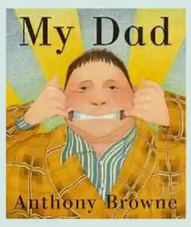


Grandparents' Bag of Stories

Written by Sudha Murty, this illustrated collection is about a group of children spending their holidays with their grandparents in a small town. Every evening, their grandmother narrates stories filled with humour, kindness, cleverness, and life lessons. The 192-page book captures the warmth of intergenerational family bonds and the joy of sharing stories of kings and cheats, princesses, monkeys and mice and scorpions and hidden treasures, within Indian families. It features short chapters and colourful illustrations suitable for younger readers.

A Different Pond

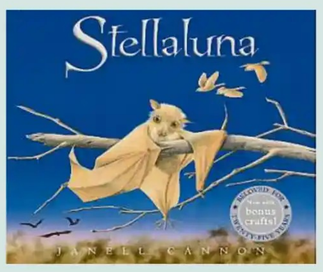
This award-winning picture book by Bao Phi tells the story of a young boy who goes fishing with his father before sunrise. As they sit quietly by the pond, the father shares memories of his life in Vietnam and the struggles of immigrant families. The story explores love, sacrifice, and the quiet ways families care for one another. Thi Bui's illustrations add emotional depth and warmth to the narrative.



My Dad

Narrated by a child who adores his father, the picture book by Anthony Browne describes dad as brave, funny, strong, and capable of anything. Through imaginative comparisons and playful illustrations, the story celebrates the way children often see their parents as larger-than-life heroes. The simple text and expressive artwork make it an engaging family-themed read for younger children.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street



Set in Harlem, this charming novel by Karina Yan Glaser follows the five Vanderbeeker siblings as they try to convince their grumpy landlord not to evict their family before Christmas. The children come up with increasingly creative plans, leading to funny mishaps and touching moments. Filled with cosy illustrations and memorable characters, the story highlights sibling relationships, community, and the meaning of home.

Is it better to adopt pets or buy them?

Looks like our readers have spoken loud and clear! For Let's Debate, we received many responses supporting adoption and none arguing for buying pets, which gladdens our heart. Here are some reader responses

Compassion matters

It is better to adopt pets than to buy them from shops because the dogs and cats roaming aimlessly on the streets do not get good food or clean water. They are never cared for properly. All they want is a loving family that will never leave them, no matter what happens, so that they can live peacefully. But they cannot tell us how they feel.

Especially in India, some children hurt them for no reason at all, throwing stones at them for goodness knows why. Often, stray animals survive on spoiled food from trash cans and water from sewage channels. As a result, they develop diseases like rabies, plague, and many other illnesses that can cause death.

The pets in shops are usually well-groomed, cared for, and free from diseases. However, if we buy pets from shops, they may trust their caretakers more at first. On the other hand, adopted animals become very loyal and protect us if we are in danger.

Today, many people buy pets only because they are cute, while no one seems to care about stray animals. If a pet dog or cat saves you from burglars in the middle of the night, it protects one house. But stray animals often protect the whole street they live in. Many people do not adopt stray animals because they think they are ugly. But anyone who cares for stray animals is a hero in the eyes of the world.

– **MOHAMMEDSAAD M ALAVANDI, 12**
Gadag, Karnataka

Care for strays

Adopting a pet is a much better choice than buying one. There are so many dogs that have been abandoned and are just waiting for someone to care for them. When we adopt, we give them a second chance at a happy life. It is also more affordable, since adoption usually costs little to no money compared to buying a pet.

Abandoned dogs are not the same as stray dogs. Stray dogs are used to living on the streets and know how to survive. But abandoned dogs were once pets, so they are used to being fed on time, going for walks, and living comfortably in a home. Because of this, they often struggle to survive on the streets. They may not know how to find food or protect themselves.

On the other hand, buying a pet can be expensive and does not help solve the problem of homeless animals. Even though shop owners may take care of the dogs they sell, abandoned dogs are the ones that really need help. They have already experienced a good life, and it is hard for them to suddenly live without care and comfort.

In my opinion, adopting a dog is a kind and responsible decision. Instead of leaving these animals to suffer, we can give them love, care, and a safe place to live.

– **K P THANMAY GOWDA, 15**
Shivamogga, Karnataka

Save a life

Adopting a pet is not just a choice; it is an act of kindness because when we adopt an animal, we save a life. We give them the warmth of a home, freedom, love, and the proper care they need.

Adoption provides a loving home for animals that have been abandoned, abused, or left to wander the streets. I would prefer and recommend that people adopt stray pets instead of purchasing them because animals are not meant for aesthetic purposes or as showpieces.

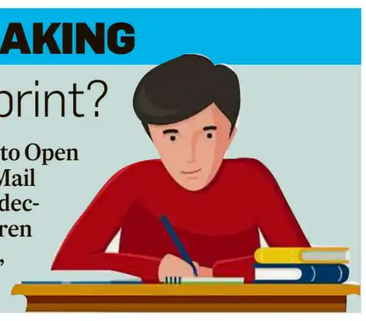
Many animals suffer from abuse, neglect, and confinement, which can have serious effects on their physical and mental health. In fact, certain selectively bred pets often face health issues. Some cats and dogs develop breathing difficulties, joint problems, or genetic disorders due to unnatural breeding practices. This shows how the business of buying and selling animals can sometimes prioritise appearance over well-being.

If more people choose to adopt animals living on the streets, the demand for buying pets will decrease, reducing exploitation and giving these animals a better life.

– **RUWAA ATTAR, 12**
Gokak, Karnataka

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?



Send in poems on the topic 'If I could change one thing' to Open Sesame. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in Entries close on May 28. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to your school bag

If you could have a conversation with your school bag, what would you like to know about it, and what would you tell it about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on May 21.

Word of the Week
whiffle
(verb)
— to blow in gusts or puffs; to make a light whistling sound.
Usage:
— The wind began to whiffle through the trees.
— We heard the kettle whiffle softly in the kitchen.

This Week:

Solely Sikkim

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On May 16, 1975, Sikkim officially became the 22nd state of India after the 333-year-old monarchy was abolished. Which year had Sikkim earlier signed a treaty, whereby it became India's protectorate?

Q2 On May 25, 1955, George Band and a fellow mountaineer first ascended Kanchenjunga (more correctly known as Khangchendzonga), on the Sikkim–Nepal border. Who was the other climber?

Q3 State symbols of Sikkim include the Blood Pheasant, Noble Orchid and Rhododendron Niveum, commonly known as Snow Rhododendron. Which endangered mammal is the official state animal of Sikkim?

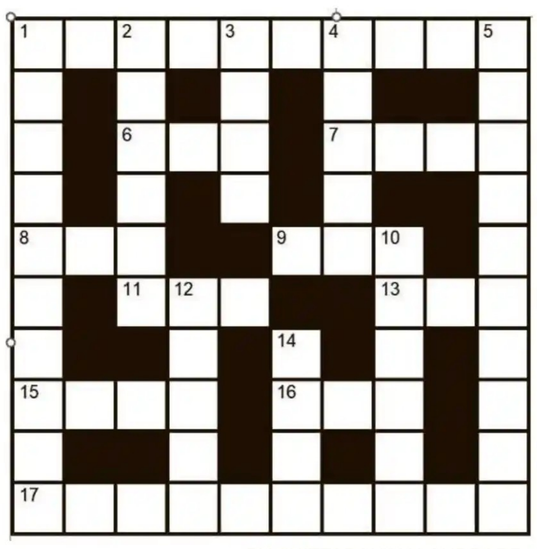
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: In 2003, Sikkim became the first Indian state to adopt organic ___.
Clue B: Hurting someone or damaging something.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Who was the wife of the last Chogyal (King) of Sikkim? Use these clues.
a) USA
b) 1963
c) Historian
d) 'Time Change'

WINNER'S NAMES: Madhumita Sudhindra (14), Koppal; Harsha Kumar (12), Bangarpet; Anoosha Bhaskar (12), Sringeri.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Meerut, A2) Red Fort, A3) Begum Hazrat Mahal, A4) Rose/Nose, A5) 'A Flight of Pigeons'.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 A fool and his money are ___ (4,6)
6 Organ of vision (3)
7 Mineral used in face or body powders (4)
8 Gardening implement (3)
9 Donkey (3)
11 Noise (3)
13 Pair (3)
15 Turn over and over (4)
16 Organ of hearing (3)
17 Absolute power corrupts ___ (10)

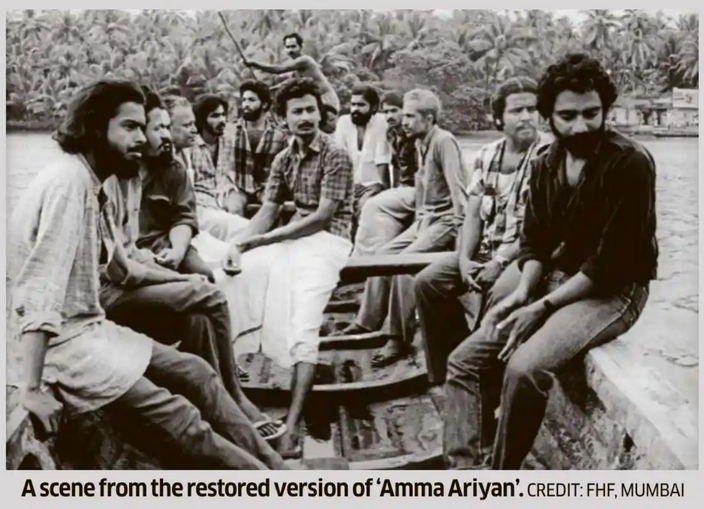
Down
1 East Asian country (5,5)
2 Followed instructions (6)
3 Skin of fruit (4)
4 Religious rituals (5)
5 Book containing words and meanings (10)
10 Go without food (6)
12 Eskimo ice house (5)
14 Food card in restaurant (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Soon parted, 6 Eye, 7 Talc, 8 Hoe, 9 Ass, 11 Din, 13 Two, 15 Roll, 16 Ear, 17 Absolutely.
Down: 1 South Korea, 2 Obeyed, 3 Peel, 4 Rites, 5 Dictionary, 10 Starve, 12 Igloo, 14 Menu.

JOHN ABRAHAM AT CANNES

'DIFFICULT PERSON, but a deep humanist'

Avant-garde filmmaker John Abraham and his "people's cinema" are back in focus as the restored Amma Ariyan heads to Cannes. Speaking with Pranati A S, editor Bina Paul reflects on the auteur's legacy and the film's enduring impact



A scene from the restored version of 'Amma Ariyan'. CREDIT: FHF, MUMBAI

A group of young men journey from the hills of Wayanad to Kochi to break the news of a comrade's death to his mother. Through a documentary-style lens, John Abraham's 'Amma Ariyan' tracks their arduous trek, serving as a searing political commentary on the disillusionment of the Naxalite movement. By focusing on the tragic suicides of young Naxalites, the narrative explores the profound despair and ideological fatigue that gripped the movement during the 1970s.

Bina Paul, the film's editor.

Abraham is regarded as one of the most radical voices in Indian cinema. His films were politically charged and remain politically relevant. 'Agraharathil Kazhuthai' is a scathing satire about social hypocrisy, bigotry, and superstition within orthodox, upper-caste communities. In his first film, 'Vidhyarthikale Ithile Ithile' as well, he makes a humorous critique about student life and society, mocking authoritarianism.

A critique of the Brechtian approach, he rejected intellectualising films. He was quoted in an old interview saying, "My approach to cinema is more affective than intellectual. I am very 'sentimental' in many matters, and I am not embarrassed to admit that in public. I will cry loudly when my mother or my child dies. What is the point of staying far away, saying 'I won't cry; I have read Brecht'?"

Abraham made independent, socially funded cinema and founded the Odessa Collective to produce films and to "create people's films". 'Amma Ariyan' is the final work of the filmmaker who made just four features and three documentaries before his untimely death in 1987 at the age of 49.

Well-known film editor and film curator Bina Paul made her feature film debut with 'Amma Ariyan'. She describes working with him as quite chaotic and says, "I was very young then. It was a great learning experience. He was a difficult person, as everybody knows. But, he definitely knew what he wanted and what he was doing."

Excerpts from an interview:

He did not just make political films, but he also made them politically, rejecting mainstream production and distribution. What shaped his politics?

His politics were rooted in personal conviction and a deep sense of humanism that transcended party lines. He firmly believed that cinema should be accessible to everyone and used as a tool to depict real-world situations. He was also of the belief that cinema should be used to tell people about situations, real situations. He grew up in a Syrian Christian family. He lost his mother early, but he had sisters who really loved him. His perspective was shaped by his upbringing in Kerala and his time at FTII, where he was influenced by Ritwik Ghatak and the Latin American Third Cinema movement. Ultimately, he was a humanist who stood firmly against exploitation in all its forms.

What happened to the Odessa Collective after he died?

We were all part of it; I suppose it was difficult to continue the model. Some people tried. There was Odessa Satyan, Ahmed... but they never got another person like John, who really believed in the movement. Even today, there are still people who really believe in Odessa and are a part of it, but it has become less active.

What was the restoration process like?

It was complex. There was no good surviving negative, and we do not know what happened to it. It used to lie in the Chitranjali studio. The film was usually shown on a 16 mm print. So there were only one or two surviving 35 mm copies. I think Shivendra did quite a job tracing it. He finally found it in the national film archive. Finding the original material itself was quite challenging. It's always best to restore a film from a negative.

Because the film belonged to a collective, determining ownership and decision-making rights was a complex, shared responsibility. When the restoration began, the original team, including the cinematographer, sound recordist Krishna Nuni, and myself, collaborated closely to ensure the original vision was preserved. Our primary focus was maintaining the integrity of the work and ensuring that no footage was missing, particularly sections that may have been lost or cut during past screenings.

How were his films received back in the day? They didn't go to many festivals...

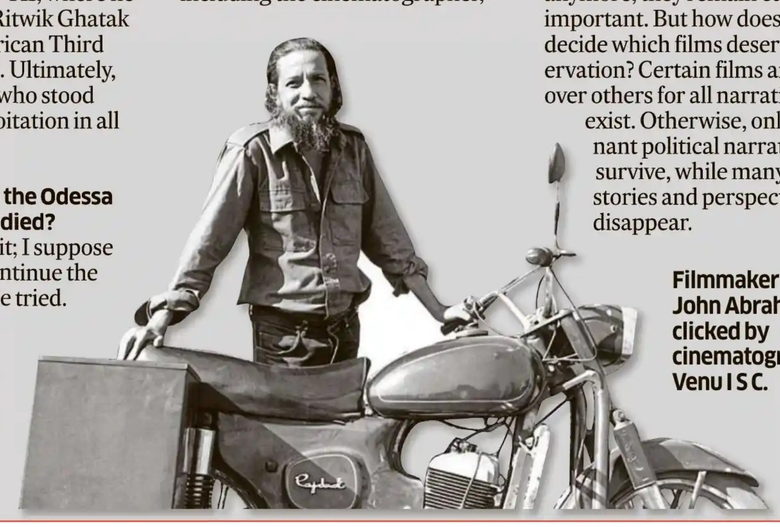
He died too early, but the films still reached audiences through hundreds of screenings across the state. People carried 'Amma Ariyan' from place to place even without a formal release. There's a documentary being made, called 'The Film That Belongs to Everyone' by Shalini Usha. It explores these questions: why the film should be preserved, how it was made, who watched it, and why it didn't receive wider international recognition.

Also at that time, it was more important for the film to be shown in Kerala, where it did very well. After he died, the work did not get the international circulation it deserved. That's why the Cannes screening now feels more important.

What do you think is the significance of restoring these films?

It's really a question about why we preserve history or culture at all. Films are part of our heritage, just like books, museums, or old buildings. They are preserved so future generations know these histories existed. Even if these films are not commercially shown anymore, they remain culturally important. But how does one decide which films deserve preservation? Certain films are picked over others for all narratives to exist. Otherwise, only dominant political narratives will survive, while many other stories and perspectives disappear.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in



Filmmaker John Abraham clicked by cinematographer Venu I S C.

The Mumbai-based Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), helmed by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, has been working extensively to restore classics from across the country. Their previous restorations include 'Thamp', 'Kummatty' (Aravindan Govindan), 'Ishanou' (Aribam Syam Sharma), 'Manthan' (Shyam Benegal), 'Ghatashraddha (Girish Kasaravalli), 'Aranyer Din Ratri' (Satyajit Ray), 'Gehenu Lamai' (Sumitra Peries), and 'Do Bigha Zamin' (Bimal Roy), among others.

According to a press note by FHF, the restoration of 'Amma Ariyan' began in 2023. The only available version was a poor-quality online copy. The restoration team found just two 35 mm prints at the National Film Archive of India, one of which was subtitled. The prints, accessed in 2024, showed "significant deterioration, including scratches, broken splices and emulsion damage". The restoration was carried out at L'Immagine Ritrovata, Bologna and Digital Film Restore Pvt Ltd, Chennai. The process involved extensive manual work, particularly in sound, with over 4,000 interventions to address noise, dropouts and inconsistencies.

Snapshots of the restoration process of John Abraham's 'Amma Ariyan'.

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

The funny side of sadness

AMOGH RAVINDRA

Martin Short and Nancy Dolman in the documentary.

★★★☆☆

Marty, Life Is Short

English (Theatres)

Director: Lawrence Kasdan

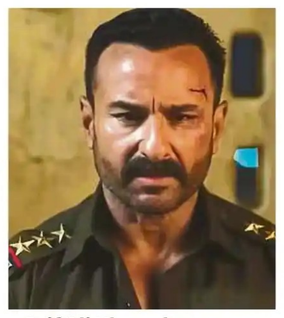
There is something warm, funny, and surprisingly moving about Martin Short. This is not just a documentary about Short's career, but about how one of comedy's loudest performers carried grief quietly while making everyone else laugh. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan, the film follows Short from his early Canadian comedy days to becoming one of Hollywood's most lovable chaos machines.

The documentary moves through familiar milestones. SCTV, Saturday Night Live, Broadway, films, and of course his long friendship with Steve Martin, who often looks like he has spent decades trying not to laugh beside him. But the film works best in its quieter moments. Short speaks openly about losing both his parents at a young age and later losing his wife, Nancy Dolman. The documentary never turns these losses into dramatic twists. They simply become part of the person he is. Short himself keeps the film constantly alive. Even during emotional moments, he jokes, rambles, and slips into impressions like his brain refuses to stay still for too long. Friends and collaborators describe him as someone who lights up every room, even while carrying sadness privately. Kasdan keeps things simple. Home videos, archival footage, interviews, and performances blend together naturally without forcing emotion. The film understands something important about comedians. Sometimes the funniest people are also the ones trying hardest to keep the sadness quiet.

In the end, 'Marty, Life Is Short' feels warm, honest, and gently moving. Much like Martin Short himself.

All despair and no punch

RASHMI VASUDEVA



Saif Ali Khan plays a cop.

★★☆☆☆

Kartavya

Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Pulkit

Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Rasika Dugal, Sanjay Mishra

'Kartavya' begins with painfully on-the-nose references to Arjuna's sense of duty, setting the tone for a film that mistakes despair for depth. Coupled with the now overused hinterland aesthetic of moral decay and relentless bleakness, the film feels exhausting almost from the outset. Half an hour in, it somehow becomes even more predictable.

There is plenty here that should hit hard: an influential godman, a corrupt police system, a ruthless khap panchayat, caste violence, and political rot. Yet despite the film's parade of despondency, nothing moves you. Or perhaps it is because of the constant gloom that you are left emotionally cold.

The story follows Pawan Malik (Saif Ali Khan), a police officer assigned to protect a prominent journalist who is shot dead before his eyes. Determined to catch the culprits, Pawan soon realises larger forces are at play. Running parallel is the story of his younger brother, who elopes with a girl from another caste. On paper, this has all the ingredients of a gripping socio-political thriller. The execution, however, remains frustratingly flat.

Saif tries hard to play the morally upright hinterland cop, but never fully disappears into the role. The film's supposedly terrifying villain is even weaker, all bluster and no menace. Rasika Dugal is reduced to looking worried for most of the runtime, while Sanjay Mishra stands out simply because he brings some texture to an otherwise bland film.

Unless you are a die-hard Saif fan, this is an easy skip.

Predictable, 'manufactured' tale

NIKHIL WAIKER

Suriya and Trisha in the fantasy thriller.

★☆☆☆☆

Karuppu

Tamil (Theatres)

Director: RJ Balaji

Cast: Suriya, Trisha Krishnan

A Jungian interpretation of the "hero's monomyth" explains why audiences love movies about characters overcoming odds to win a "treasure." The "treasure" has changed as a subject over time. In the early American Westerns, it was the hero besting the rugged terrain and championing the unknown. While the trail-blazing, anarchic, outlaw was celebrated, his achievements became legends for the common folk to follow. In film history, over time, this stereotype has turned into an industry norm. 'Karuppu' from the word go, wears the same garb.

Saravanan, a lawyer (played by Suriya), wounded by hunger, beaten and battered by the corruption of the courts, embodies a local deity (Kaval Deivam), a vicious enforcer of 'dharma'. The first half sets up the plot well. However, the second half fails by using tired clichés of good versus evil. This failure leaves the movie with no saving grace. Films must work in cohesion with the narrative as a whole, not in parts. Unnecessarily shrill, glamourised, and hyped, it appears as though the star power, and not the script, is the film's priority. Amidst all of this, Kamashi, a fellow lawyer (Trisha), is almost entirely sidelined, as though her importance in Saravanan's journey is irrelevant — further aggravating the patriarchal norms of the hero's journey. The film climaxes with a courtroom battle, where the urgency of the deity's mythical enforcement of justice triumphs over the lethargic legal system, with the deivam and Suriya being harbingers of goodness.

In short, a disappointing and predictable watch. It seems like 'Karuppu' is a sharp reflection of a film industry that "manufactures" films instead of making them with artistic zeal.

Attention circus: From magic to mundane

Stars once guarded their privacy like a family heirloom; today, it's a constant battle to stay relevant, writes Angel Rani

They wake up, spot a shiny new pimple on the tip of their nose, and proudly broadcast it to their 20 million followers.

Then come the gym routines, documented in forensic detail. Arms, chest, glutes, triceps... (Toenails, anyone?) Cheat meal? A plate of chaat, followed by a detox to shed the catastrophic 0.05 calories. Well, dinner is nonexistent after 7 pm. Bedtime? 9 sharp, so they can rise early and post a "private" love note to their partner lying right beside them.

Dear celebrity, we now know your likes, dislikes (and bowel movements) like the back of our hand. Hail social media, the great aura-killer. What was once magic is now mundane; the glamour has dissolved into routine.

Once upon a time, stars lived behind velvet curtains. Greta Garbo perfected the art of vanishing, Katharine Hepburn guarded her privacy like a family heirloom. Aparna Sen and Rekha floated through our imaginations like enigmatic phantoms.

The curtain has now been ripped down by Instagram stories. If the old stars kept their personal lives out of the press, today's stars bankroll PR and paparazzi to 'leak' every salacious detail. Talk about the circus it takes to stay relevant!

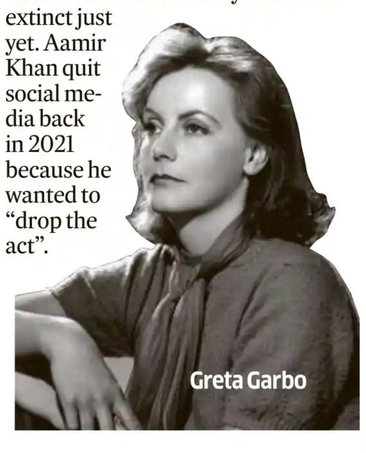
It was cool and fun in the beginning, when actors first got to air their views to the world without fear of being misquoted or taken out of context. It worked as long as they kept it real and minimal, treating social media as a platform to promote their work rather than a stage for spectacle.

Rekha

But guess what, the social media platforms quickly mutated into a never-ending feed. Suddenly, every sneeze and snack was blasted across handles. Our superstars had opinions on everything under the sun — from geopolitics to gulab jamun — and those hot takes were shoved down the throats of netizens.

And now, star fatigue! Every morsel of information about your celebrity crush is at your fingertips, from their breakfast oats to their bedtime yawns. The transformation from a culture of cultivated magic to a daily dump of digital garbage happened so fast we didn't even get time to mourn the mystery. What once felt like rare glimpses into stardom has given way to relentless oversharing, leaving us exhausted. Also, all that in-your-face cheer and positivity celebrities peddle online is not quite about goodwill and fame. Most posts are cleverly disguised promotions aimed at fattening their bank accounts. Behind the glossy captions and curated smiles lies a hustle for brand deals and clicks. And it works. One stray 'like' from Virat Kohli can hijack the Internet faster than breaking news from West Asia.

Amid the daily avalanche of digital noise, it's also heartening to note that the elusive-celebrity tribe isn't extinct just yet. Aamir Khan quit social media back in 2021 because he wanted to "drop the act".



Greta Garbo

Fahadh Faasil treats social media like a noisy neighbour; Ranbir Kapoor and Rani Mukherji don't have public accounts.

And then there's Akshaye Khanna — the industry's certified social recluse. For years, he lived like a ghost in the age of hashtags, until 'Dhurandhar' dragged him out of hiding and tossed him back into the spotlight. Oh boy, our condolences!

How about having more like him to keep the enigma alive? Actors lose their appeal once they become "one among us", walking, talking and posting silly updates just like their admirers. Imagine the joy of reading a scoop on your favourite artiste — neither clarified nor denied for months. Those were the days. Now, you get everything from their relationship status to their recipes without even asking.

Silence, not selfies, might just be the last luxury left. Perhaps the only way to shine again is to step back into the shadows. And maybe, just maybe, the ones who refuse to play the game will be the only ones left worth watching.

Quick takes

No guardrails

▸ Alia Bhatt inspires a lot of mocking memes and hate posts. Her Cannes journey, predictably, has elicited these and more. One likened her coral-pink gown by Australian designer Tamara Ralph to a 'fallopian tube'. Ouch. Others spotted her waving to seemingly indifferent paps and gleefully declared she has an "aura deficit". If this reminds you of another very important person waving to empty stretches, we are not responsible. Worse, the hawk-eyed tribe soon found a new protagonist: her bodyguard. The perplexed chap quickly became a viral sensation, inspiring many 'thirst' posts that ignored Alia and focused entirely on his evidently abundant aura. Very French.

How platonic!

▸ A new book by journalist Florian Tardif claims that French President Emmanuel Macron shared "secret chats" with an actress, apparently the reason for First Lady Brigitte Macron's jealousy. (Recall the infamous video!) Now the debate is whether "you are very beautiful" counts as romance or is just French amitié. Tardiff calls it "platonic" while also insisting the texts "went quite far". A scandal about secret "platonic" chats for poor Macron when earlier French presidents allegedly managed to have entire secret families.

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"We have just not been able to handle pressure in the last few defeats. We have not played our best cricket when we need to, which has been disappointing.

BRAD HADDIN, PBKS ASST COACH

Hard work behind my resurgence: Prasidh

Gujarat Titans' pacer eyes a return to India's T20 side

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gujarat Titans have one of the most formidable bowling line-ups in the IPL, featuring menacing South African Kagiso Rabada, India's Mohammed Siraj and Afghanistan's ace spinner Rashid Khan. Amid this star-studded attack, shinning in his own way is Karnataka's Prasidh Krishna.

Last season, the 30-year-old upstaged all of them, bagging the Purple Cap for most wickets overall with 25 scalps. This year, he's done well with 14 wickets from eight games. There was a time between 2022-25 when Prasidh missed a lot of cricket because of frequent injuries.

Completely fit now, he's firing on all cylinders and is eyeing a return to the T20 fold in the Indian team. In an exclusive chat with *DH*, arranged by the franchise, the Bengalurean talks about his strong return, dream of playing a World Cup and how he tided through the three-year injury phase. Excerpts...

Gujarat Titans have a potent bowling line-up, but just like last season, you've made an impression yet again. Your thoughts on cracking the international competition.

Honestly, I don't have anything to say about that. I'm just doing my job. Believe in what you have to do, and I believe in myself. Definitely when you've got great superstars around you, because they put under pressure, they put in the wickets, they do the early damage. That, maybe, helps you pick a lot of wickets and get lucky with having wickets on your side.

Since your comeback to IPL last season following a three-year hiatus due to frequent injury breakdowns, you've been a different bowler. What has changed?

I think it's just been a lot of hard work. You put in a lot of hours into what you're doing at practice. You're very cautious about your sleep, your meals and all of that. Just having the clarity of what is important right now, what can help you get better as a cricketer. I'm enjoying my time. Again, it's hard work and lots of experience. I started playing cricket a long time ago, seen a lot of it and aged as well. So it's just an accumulation of all of these things.

Frequent injuries kept you out of India's T20 set up. Now that you're fit and doing well in this format, are you eyeing a return to the national side in the shortest format?

I'll tell you one thing, I'm looking to play very good cricket every single time I turn up on the ground, whichever team I play for. Because look, I would have loved to be a part of every single winning team. There are a lot of World Cups that we have won in the recent past, and we've been doing great as a team. I was lucky to be part of a few games. I wasn't a part of a few teams because somebody was better than me, or somebody just took their place when it mattered. But it's not down to me. I think what I have learned at 30 today is to make sure you enjoy the cricket that you play, make sure you're happy, and you keep the people around you happy. And then everything that has to follow, will follow.

Talking about World Cup, the ODI one is scheduled next year. Is that your major target?

I'm looking to play a good brand of cricket. Tomorrow, I am playing KKR. I don't really set goals or say, 'This is what I want to do in so many months' time or so many years' time'. I look at it as one day, now what's best I can do right now. That's exactly what I want to do.

How badly did that three-year period when you kept getting injured weigh you down? Because even Virat Kohli rated you very highly then.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed. But I think I had really good people around me who did not let me be in that shell for too long. I am very optimistic, very live-by-the-day kind of a guy, so I made sure I enjoyed every single bit of it. I spent a lot of time at home. I had a lot of food at home, which I always crave for when I'm playing and I'm travelling outside. I just look at that phase as something that I had to go through to be in the place that I am in today.

Following a Purple Cap-winning performance last season (25 wickets), Gujarat Titans' Prasidh Krishna is enjoying another good year this time too with 14 scalps from 8 games. REUTERS

LSG put a spoke in CSK's playoff hopes

Marsh plays a smashing knock in seven-wicket win

LUCKNOW, PTI

Mitchell Marsh's 38-ball 90 was a stunning rhapsody of power, carrying an already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants to a seven-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here on Friday.

Once the Super Kings posted a healthy 187 for five, which was built around Kartik Sharma's prudent 71, the Super Giants' task was cut out on a slightly two-paced track.

But Marsh, who along with his Australia team-mate Josh Inglis (36, 31b) added 135 runs for the opening wicket, made a mockery of the pitch.

Chennai stayed on 12 points from as many games, and now they need to win both their remaining matches and some other results to go their way to have a chance to enter the playoffs.

There was some assistance to exploit on the deck, particularly if you dug the ball in, but the Chennai bowlers were more keen to discover from non-existent swing while pitching the ball up.

On other occasions, the attempted snorters turned out to be pathetic half-trackers, but Marsh was not complaining. The 34-year-old gorged on the offerings in his inimitable style.

Pacer Anshul Kamboj felt the brute strength of 'Bison' while getting pasted for four sixes in a row with a four to boot in the fifth over the chase. The over yielded 28 runs.

The LSG ended the Powerplay with an impressive 86 without loss and Marsh continued to drive his side.

Pacer Spencer Johnson was his next target, hitting him for two fours and a six as the runs flowed in thick and fast.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson c Choudhary b Akash 20, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Pooran b Akash 13, Urvil Patel c Marsh b Akash 6, Kartik Sharma c Markram b Ahmed 71, Dewald Brevis c Akash b Shami 25, Shivam Dube (not out) 32, Prashant Veer (not out) 13. Extras (W-7) 7. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 187.**
Fall of wkts: 1-31, 2-36, 3-52, 4-122, 5-142. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-41-1, Akash Singh 4-0-26-3, Prince Yadav 4-0-49-0, Mayank Yadav 4-0-26-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 4-0-45-1.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Mitchell Marsh (run out) 90, Josh Inglis c Urvil b Mukesh Choudhary 36, Nicholas Pooran (not out) 32, Abdul Samad b Johnson 7, Mukul Choudhary (not out) 13. Extras (B-1, LB-6, W-3) 10. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 16.4 overs) 188.**
Fall of wkts: 1-135, 2-135, 3-144.
Bowling: Mukesh Choudhary 3-0-24-1, Spencer Johnson 4-0-39-1, Anshul Kamboj 2.4-0-63-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-21-0, Gurjapneet Singh 3-0-34-0.
Result: LSG won by 7 wkts.
PoM: Mitchell Marsh

Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell Marsh scored a 38-ball 90 to star in his side's emphatic win over Chennai Super Kings on Friday. PTI

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	12	6	5	1	13	0.355
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Chennai Super Kings	12	6	6	0	12	0.027
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	6	1	9	-0.198
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants	12	4	8	0	8	-0.701

IN BRIEF

RCB get Gleeson for Thushara

Royal Challengers Bengaluru brought in Englishman Richard Gleeson to fill in for Nuwan Thushara while Chennai Super Kings named Delhi left-arm pacer Kuldip Yadav as the replacement for Khaleel Ahmed in the ongoing IPL, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Pollard fined for abusing official

Mumbai Indians' batting coach Kieron Pollard has been fined 15 percent of his applicable match fee for breaching the IPL's code of conduct by using abusive language for the fourth umpire, reports PTI from Dharamsala.

The incident took place during MI's match against Punjab Kings on Thursday night

Ravindra leaves KKR

Kolkata Knight Riders all-rounder Rachin Ravindra has left the IPL to begin preparations for New Zealand's upcoming Test tour of England, the franchise said in a squad update, reports PTI from Kolkata.

"Rachin Ravindra has returned home to begin his red-ball preparations for New Zealand's upcoming Test tour to England," KKR stated on Friday.

Shivani, Aparna claim gold

The Indian wushu team delivered a commanding performance at the Sanda World Cup, winning two gold, one silver, and two bronze medals, reports PTI from Macau, China.

In the women's 75kg category, Border Security Force athlete Shivani defeated her Russian opponent to clinch the gold medal with an impressive display of skill and determination.

Pak docked WTC points

Pakistan have been fined 40 per cent of their match fee and penalised eight points in the ongoing ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle for maintaining a slow over-rate during their defeat in the opening Test against Bangladesh, reports PTI from Dhaka.

KKR fight to stay alive as GT eye top-two finish

KOLKATA, PTI

Back home after nearly a month on the road and with their campaign hanging by a thread, Kolkata Knight Riders will look to stay alive in the IPL when they face a rampaging Gujarat Titans side chasing a top-two finish, here on Saturday.

It has been another inconsistent and underwhelming season for KKR under veteran Ajinkya Rahane, whose appointment as captain itself had raised questions after the franchise finished a disappointing eighth under him last year.

KKR had to wait till their seventh match (halfway stage) of the season to register their first win and have looked far from a settled side throughout the campaign, with questionable team selections and batting-order hurting their rhythm.

Their brief revival, which brought four consecutive wins starting with the victory over Rajasthan Royals in their last home match on April 19, ended with a defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru after sloppy fielding and a batting masterclass by Virat Kohli.

KKR now have three matches remaining and can reach a maximum of 15 points if they win all of them, but even that may not guarantee a playoff berth as qualification would then depend on other results.

Another defeat, however, would virtually end their campaign and could also intensify scrutiny on Rahane's future with the franchise. Their four-match winning run was built largely around the return to form of spin twins Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, along with consistent contributions from vice-captain Rinku Singh.

KKR will be happy to welcome Varun Chakravarthy back into the playing XI against GT. AFP

LIVE 7:30 PM

Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) (Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail: **igotinstitute@gmail.com**
No: IGOT/TND/SERVICES/01/2026-27 Date: 15.05.2026

ABSTRACT E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Tender Inviting Authority of Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, invites e-Tender for the following **Security Services, Housekeeping Services and Electrical Maintenance Service** from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal (Two cover system) of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender can be downloaded from	Last Date of Submission of Tender	Date of Pre-Bid meeting	Date of opening Technical Bid
1	IGOT/TND/SECURITY SERVICE/21/2026-27	Security Services	15.05.2026 at 4.00 P.M Onwards	14.06.2026 at 4.00 P.M	26.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M	16.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M
2	IGOT/TND/HK/20/2026-27	House Keeping Service				
3	IGOT/TND/ELECTRICAL/37/2026-27	Electrical Maintenance				

The tenderers should submit tenders through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Any further amendments can be seen in the e-Portal only.

Sd/- Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee, IGOT, Bengaluru-02.

ನೃಪತುಂಗ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
(NAAC A+ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)

NRUPATHUNGA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU
(NAAC A+ Accredited Institution)

ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001. E-mail: nrupathungauniversity@gmail.com, Ph : 080-22212924

No:NUB/RA/Conavocation/63/2026-27 Date : 15.05.2026

Notification

It is hereby notified that the 2nd & 3rd Annual Convocation Of the Nrupathunga University, Bengaluru is scheduled to be held on Tuesday the **2nd June 2026 at 11.30 AM** in the **Jnana Jyothi Auditorium,** Palace Road, Central College campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru-560001. **Shri.Thaawar Chand Gehlot,** Hon'ble Governor Of Karnataka and Chancellor of Nrupthunga University will preside Over the Convocation. **"Prof. H.S. Raghavendra Rao,** renowned scholar and thinker, will arrive as the chief guest and deliver the convocation Address. **Dr.M.C. Sudhakar,** Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka and Pro-Chancellor, Nrupathunga University will grace the Convocation. **"Prof. Mohan Kumar B.K,** Vice chancellor, Nrupathunga University will present a brief report of activities of the University.

Sg/-
Registrar (Administration)

DIPR/CP/690/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

'If I've to prove my worth, that place is not for me'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Virat Kohli **(in pic)** still loves the game enough to be focussed on playing next year's World Cup but the star India batter also makes it clear that if his worth is constantly called into question in a certain "environment", he would accept that the "place is not meant" for him.

Speaking on his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru's podcast, the 37-year-old superstar said he detests constant change of positions as far as the judgement on his value is concerned.

"I am always ready because that's my daily life. You know, I work out, we eat well at home. It is because I like living that way. It is not only to play cricket. So that is where I am. I mean, this 27 (2027 World Cup) chat and all that... I've been asked so many times, 'do you want to play 27'," he said.

"I know the answer. Like, why would I leave my home, you know, get my stuff over and be like, I don't know what I want. Of course, if I'm playing, I want to play cricket. I want to carry on. Playing a World Cup for India is amazing. But as I said, the value has to be two sides," he asserted.

"My perspective is very clear. If I can add value to the environment that I am part of, and the environment feels that I can add value, I will be seen. If I am made to feel like I need to prove my worth and my value, I am not in that space," said Kohli.

Kohli only plays the ODI format now after quitting T20 Internationals in 2024 and Tests in 2025. With ODI schedule shrinking considerably in the past few years, Kohli's India appearances are now scarce.

The next series he is likely to feature in is the away three-match assignment against England from July 14 to July 19. Despite his desire to be a part of the team, India head coach Gautam Gambhir has been largely non-committal on what the future holds for both Kohli and another ODI great Rohit Sharma.

Kohli said he would be around till he is wanted in the set-up. "I am being honest to my preparations, I am being honest to how I approach the game. I put my head down, I work hard. When I arrive to play, I work as hard if not harder than anyone else and I play the game in the right way," he added.

Giving an insight into his approach towards the game, Kohli said he is always prepared for the grind even as a fielder expected to "run boundary to boundary for 40 overs".

Sindhu, Lakshya crash out; Satwik-Chirag in semifinals

BANGKOK, PTI: Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu squandered a one-game advantage to go down fighting to top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the quarterfinals, but the ace men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the semifinal of the Thailand Open here on Friday.

Sindhu lost 21-19, 18-21, 15-21 to world number three Yamaguchi in the women's singles quarterfinal match that lasted just over one hour in the USD 500,000 Super 500 tournament.

Lakshya Sen too lost his men's singles quarterfinal match to second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, going down 19-21, 16-21 in 53 minutes.

However, there was some positive news in the doubles event, as top seeds Satwiksairaj and Chirag advanced to the semifinals with a commanding 21-12, 21-13 victory over the sixth-seeded Japanese pair of Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami.

The Indian duo will next face the third-seeded Malaysian pair, Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

Earlier, Sindhu's match was a tightly contested affair, but Yamaguchi showed composure to win the big points and emerge victorious.

Global Influence for feature

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Rajesh Narredu-trained Global Influence, to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, is fancied to win the BTC Charitable Trust Trophy, the feature event of the races here on Saturday.
First race starts at 3.00 pm.
1. The Quasar Plate (Div-II) -- 1400M: Art Of Romance 1; Acantha 2; Dr Ash 3.
2. The Ich Dien Plate -- 1400M: Royal Jewel 1; Supreme Success 2; Magna Carta 3.
3. The Quasar Plate (Div-I) -- 1400M: Amazing Stride 1; Exceed 2; Feeling Good 3.
4. The BTC Charitable Trust Trophy -- 1400M: Global Influence 1, Don Carlos 2, Ricardo 3.
5. The Star Contender Plate -- 1200M: Quannah 1, Shining Ways 1, Burevestnik 3.
6. The Manitou Plate -- 1200M: Solar 1, Khazana 2, Darrington 3.
Day's best: Royal Jewel
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Mini-jackpot**: 3, 4 & 5. **I treble**: 1, 2 & 3. **II treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Gujarat Titans **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **JioHotstar** & **Star Sports 1**.

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Semis **(10:30 am). LIVE** on **JioHotstar, Star Sport Select 2.**

FOOTBALL

FA Cup final: Chelsea vs Manchester City **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

ISL: Odisha FC vs Punjab FC **(5 PM). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5.**

SQUASH

World Championships: Final **(10 pm). LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Pep sounds fatigue alarm

Man City take on troubled Chelesa in search of Cup double

LONDON, AFP

Pep Guardiola hopes Manchester City can overcome mounting fatigue in Saturday's FA Cup final as Chelsea aim to salvage a turbulent season by ending their domestic trophy drought.

Guardiola's side are embroiled in a last-ditch bid to catch Premier League leaders Arsenal, but their slender title hopes will be on hold this weekend as they head to Wembley in search of a cup double.

City, who beat Arsenal in the League Cup final in March, had to play Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Wednesday and they will be back in top-flight action just three days after facing Chelsea when they head to Bournemouth.

Although Guardiola made six changes for a 3-0 win against Palace that left them two points behind Arsenal with two games left, the City boss is concerned his team's gruelling fixture schedule could hand Chelsea an advantage in the final.

"After the FA Cup, it is Bournemouth, we play every three days. Chelsea have a week at home training, preparing the final," he said. "We have to travel to London. They will be at home with their wife and kids. So that is fatigue and fatigue and fatigue."

Guardiola tried to alleviate the physical toll by starting with Erling Haaland, Rayan Cherki and Jeremy Doku on the bench against Palace.

"I have full confidence in all the squad, including the ones that didn't play against Palace. They are so good," Guardiola said. "I thought we needed more energy. Savinho, Antoine (Semenyo) and Omar (Marmoush) were really good. Now we rest and focus on the final."

City are appearing in the FA Cup final for a record fourth successive season, but they lost the last two, against Crystal Palace in 2025 and Manchester United two years ago.

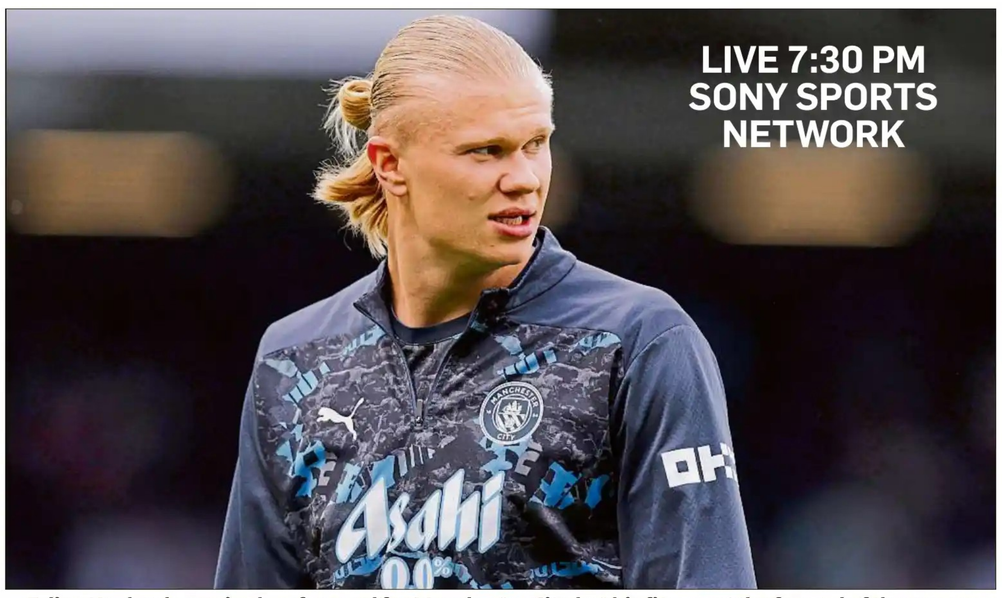
Guardiola has won the FA Cup twice, in 2019 and 2023, and a third triumph in the competition would seal his 20th trophy since arriving at City a decade ago.

Uncertainty has swirled around Guardiola's future all season and, with just one year left on his contract, he is yet to give an indication if he plans to stay or go at the end of this term. For now, the 55-year-old is looking forward to one more trip to Wembley.

"It is a pleasure to go to the cathedral of English football to play the final," he said. "Hopefully the result will be better than the last two times."

Guardiola's glittering array of trophies and vast experience are a stark contrast to Chelsea's novice interim boss Calum McFarlane. McFarlane took over following Liam Rosenior's sacking in April after just 106 days in charge.

The former Chelsea under-21 coach finds himself in the extraordinary position of leading the Blues in the FA Cup final with no realistic prospect of landing the job on a full-time basis.



Erling Haaland remains key forward for Manchester City but his fitness at the fag end of the season worries coach Pep Guardiola. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Mbappe lifts lid on tension with coach

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe started from the bench against Real Oviedo after being called the team's 'fourth forward' by coach Alvaro Arbeloa. AFP

MADRID, AP: Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe said on Thursday coach Alvaro Arbeloa told him he was the "fourth forward" in the squad before benching him against Real Oviedo.

The France captain returned from a thigh problem in a 2-0 win over Oviedo but his appearance as a 69th-minute substitute was greeted by whistles from Madrid's own disgruntled supporters at the Santiago Bernabeu. Madrid fans have criticised their top goalscorer in recent weeks for a perceived lack of commitment, with Mbappe not fit to play in the Clasico last weekend where Barcelona beat Madrid to clinch the Spanish title.

Arbeloa started with Vincius Junior, Franco Mastantuono and Gonzalo Garcia in attack against Oviedo, with Mbappe not having played for almost three weeks.

"I am very good, at 100 per cent, I didn't play because the coach told me that for him I'm the fourth forward of the squad, behind Mastantuono, Vinicius and Gonzalo," Mbappe told reporters after the game.

The forward earned an assist with a pass to Jude Bellingham for Madrid's second goal.

"In the end, I accept it (being on the bench) and I play the time I had to play," continued the striker.

Fans were unhappy about Mbappe going on holiday while recovering from his injury.

"Not being in Madrid -- I had the authorisation of the club," said Mbappe. "I don't understand what the people are saying, but I have to accept it."

Mbappe said it would be "easy" to change his situation and said he had to "look forwards and turn the page" on the whistles.

Poojary likely to return in Bengaluru FC's last match

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC find themselves in an interesting position in their last match of the Indian Super League on Saturday as they travel to neighbouring state Tamil Nadu to take on Chennaiyin FC at the Marina Arena.

A victory in the early kick-off (slated at 5.00 pm) against the struggling Chennaiyin FC will take them to the top of the table. However, the three points, if ensured, will only give them a glimmer of hope to win the title as the two Kolkata giants, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, will be just a point behind with two matches in their hands each.

Coach Pep Munoz, who finally tasted his maiden win with the club last week in a hard-fought 1-0 victory at Jamshedpur FC, had something further to cheer about as the team's star right-back Nikhil Poojary (**in pic**) was expected to see some game time as he looked desperate to prove his fitness with a national team call-up for the Unity Cup in London at the end of the month.

The Spaniard revealed during the pre-match press conference that the full-back's inclusion into the squad for Chennai trip remains subject to him clearing the last full training session. Namgyal Bhutia is likely to start at the right back position in the game, irrespective of the outcome.

With little at stake in the match, Bengaluru FC will like to claim some bragging rights of defeating southern rivals in the season, especially after a shock defeat to Kerala Blasters earlier in the season.

FC Porto target Indian grassroots

Portuguese giants forge partnership with Alchemy

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup was supposed to mark a new beginning for Indian football but it instead exposed how far behind the country still was from the global standard.

Before the tournament, many believed India's real problem existed only at the senior level while there was optimism that the gap at youth level was much smaller. This belief stemmed from the fact that the Indian U-17 side managed to beat an Italian team during an exposure tour in Europe.

But once the World Cup began, reality hit hard with defeats against teams like the USA and Ghana, highlighting the enormous difference in pace, fitness and technical quality.

Then-India coach Roberto De Matos flagged the fallacies in Indian grassroots while comparing with strong footballing nations. Turned out, budding footballers enter structured systems as early as four or five years old and spend years competing regularly before reaching the U-17 stage.

FC Porto youth academy's director Ricardo Frey Ramos.

That tournament forced Indian football to finally take grassroots development seriously as "Baby Leagues" emerged across the country. Some of the academies did begin to invest more in youth football before the momentum slowed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Even then, most of the academies operate mainly from the U-11 level onward.

That's because convincing parents to send children into football systems at five or six years old remains difficult.

"It's something we faced from our scouting days," says Sunanda Das, chief of Alchemy International Football Academy. "Parents in many parts were unwilling to let their kids leave home and stay in residential academies when they are 5-6 years old. Things have changed over the years and parents are more open to such ideas, but it is still a big challenge."

That is where FC Porto, the former UEFA Champions League winners, believe they can make an impact through their collaboration with Alchemy Football Academy at the Dravid-Padukone Centre for Sports Excellence in Yelahanka.

"For Dragon Academy, we begin as early as three years old and go all the way to U-17," says FC Porto's Dragon Academy director Ricardo Frey Ramos. "At the lowest level, it starts with 1 vs 1, where young players simply go out there and enjoy football.

"The intention is to give them as much time with the ball as possible so they develop natural skills before gradually progressing through the age groups and eventually reaching the expert level at U-14 with 11 vs 11."

That philosophy may still feel unusual in India, where several top clubs won't start their youth programme before the U-14 level.

For Porto, though, Alchemy was a natural fit as the Bengaluru-based academy has spent over a decade focusing purely on youth football and currently trains more than 200 players from across the country alongside its residential programme.

Alchemy's earlier partnerships with clubs like Boca Juniors and Villarreal never fully delivered on expectations, so there will naturally be scepticism around this tie-up as well. After all, projects like these take years before results become visible.

Still, Ramos believes this partnership has stronger foundations because both sides share the same long-term vision.

"This will work because we were a fit from the word go," he says. "We were looking for an academy that had the desired infrastructure and also shared a similar vision for youth development," he concluded.

Sakshi Chaudhary

Sakshi, Lovlina bag CWG, Asiad quotas

PATIALA, PTI: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain, giant-killer Sakshi Chaudhary, Jadumani Singh and Narender Berwal headlined the final day of selection trials here on Friday as the boxers sealed their spots for the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games amid fierce competition and weight-category reshuffles.

Joining them on the plane to Glasgow and Japan will be world championship bronze medallist Parveen Hooda (65kg), Sumit Kundu (70kg), Ankush (80kg) and Kapil Pokhariya (90kg), all of whom emerged triumphant in their respective finals.

Reigning national champion Aditya Pratap Singh (65kg), meanwhile, booked his place only for the Commonwealth Games scheduled to be held in Glasgow in July-August.

Qualifiers: Women: Sakshi Chaudhary (51kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57kg, only CWG) , Priya Ghanghas (60kg), Parveen Hooda (65kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (70kg, Only CWG), Lovlina Borghain (75kg).
Men: Jadumani Singh (55kg), Sachin Siwach (60kg), Aditya Pratap Singh (65kg, only CWG), Sumit Kundu (70kg), Ankush (80kg), Kapil Pokhariya (90kg), Narender Berwal (+90kg).

Pragg escapes early scare

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), PTI: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa survived a small scare before settling for a draw with Alireza Firouzja of France in the first round of the Super Chess Classics, the first Classical event of the Grand Chess Tour, here on Thursday.

It turned out to be an exciting affair after a dull Queen's gambit declined by Firouzja as black. As many as three minor pieces changed hands early and it looked like the game was headed towards a dull draw when Praggnanandhaa went for the complexities by allowing black to have connected passed pawns on the queen side in exchange for a strong centre.

Results: Round 1: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra): Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) drew with Anish Giri (Ned); Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb); Wesley So (Usa) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger); Jorden Van Foreest (Ned) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa).

Scheffler among seven to share lead after 1st round

NEWTOWN SQUARE, AFP

Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler fired a three-under par 67 to seize a share of the lead in Thursday's opening round of the PGA Championship.

South African Aldrich Potgieter, Australian Min Woo Lee, American Alex Smalley, Japan's Ryo Hisatsune and Germans Stephan Jaeger and Martin Kaymer also shot 67 to share the lead on a wild day at Aronimink.

Scheffler, a four-time major winner, made five birdies against two bogeys and found himself atop the leaderboard after 18 holes for the first time in a major.

"But is it really a lead when you're tied with six or seven guys," the American wondered.

"The golf course was pretty challenging," Scheffler said. "I did a good job staying in it mentally on a course that was difficult at times."

USA's Scottie Scheffler plays a shot on the 13th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship in Newtown, Pennsylvania, on Thursday. AFP

Scheffler made birdie putts from 38 feet at seven, 28 feet at 10 and just inside nine feet at 11 to share the lead, then answered a three-putt bogey at 14 with a four-foot birdie putt at 16.

Second-ranked Masters winner Rory McIlroy was frustrated after a 74, having no problems with his blister-hit right foot but plenty with his golf swing.

Treatment could've saved Maradona, testifies doctor

SAN ISIDRO (ARGENTINA), AFP: A doctor close to Diego Maradona testified on Thursday that a simple diuretic could have helped the football legend's health improve "within 48 hours," at the trial over his death.

"In about 48 hours, his condition would have clearly improved," said Dr Mario Schiter, who treated Maradona in the early 2000s and attended his autopsy in 2020, when asked what could have prevented the demise of the footballer in his final days.

"Every day I see patients like this in intensive care, who come in with congestive heart failure. We give them diuretics to reduce their volume and, after 12 hours, they're already back home," the IC specialist added.

Seven healthcare professionals are on trial in San Isidro for potential negligence in Maradona's death, and face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. The trial is expected to run through July.

Schiter's testimony follows several experts who have reported Maradona -- who led Argentina to World Cup glory in 1986 -- had excess fluid in several organs when he died.

"He had water everywhere," Carlos Casinelli said. He said these litres of fluid could not have accumulated "in less than a week or ten days," suggesting his medical team should have noticed the swelling.w

Bengaluru teen Priya Kumari poses with her spoils in Pune on Friday.

Priya edges Ojaswini for title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru teenager Priya Kumari held her nerve to sank two putts under pressure to bag a memorable double – the overall title as well as Category 'A' (15-17 years) – at the IGU Pune Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship at the Oxford Golf Resort here on Friday.

Karnataka's Ridhima Kapoor (82) emerged triumphant in Category 'C' (11-12), winning by an eight-shot margin over Ahana Shah and Aaliya Kalra (80). Ridhima finished with a total of 21-over 237.

Final scores (after 54 holes): Ladies, overall and Category 'A' (15-17 years): 216: Priya Kumari (Kar, 72, 70, 74), Ojaswini Saraswat (Raj, 73, 74, 69). Priya wins in a playoff; 219: Alysha Dutt (Har, 74, 74, 71), Yogya Bhalla (Del, 72, 73, 74); 222: Ayesha Gupta (Del, 74, 75, 73).

Category 'B' (13-14): 216: Ojaswini Saraswat; 223: Anushka Gupta (Del, 74, 77, 72); 226: Rehnoor Malik (Del, 73, 78, 75).

Category 'C' (11-12): 237: Ridhima Kapoor (Kar, 79, 76, 82); 245: Ahana Shah (Mah, 82, 84, 79), Aaliyah Kalra (79, 86, 80), Amaira Gulati (Del, 84, 80, 81); 247: Aashna Amogha (Kar, 85, 79, 83).

TENNIS ATP CHALLENGER

From ATP heydays to Challenger grind

Laid low by injuries, Ivashka fighting his way back

Belarus' Ilya Ivashka's injury-marred career has seen him drop out of 700 in the ATP rankings from being a top-40 player a few years ago. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sensing the hesitation in the query, a smirk immediately took over Ilya Ivashka's sweaty face. It was a question that has been thrown at the Belarusian man multiple times in the last few years. So by now, it seems like Ivashka is an expert at knowing the exact moment when a conversation with him heads into 'flashback' direction.

"Well, it is what it is. I mean, it could have been worse," says the 6 feet 4 inches man from Minsk who is here in the city competing in the two ATP 50 Challenger events at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

In the 'past', Ivashka was trading blows with the best in the business. He was a regular at the Grand Slams between 2019 and 2022, during which he reached a career-high of 40 in the world ranking, represented his country at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, won an ATP 250 title the same year and was threatening the top-10 players regularly at events.

But his steady rise suddenly sustained a slip that quickly became a downward spiral that went out of the now 32-year-old's control.

"My hip always troubled me. Even during the years I was playing well, I was mostly playing with pain. It got worse by the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023.

"I just tried to do as much as I can without going for surgery. I tried conservative methods and they worked for a period, but then one part in the hip broke, so I had to go in for a surgery.

"Even after that I started to play a little bit. And then I injured it again, then had surgery again."

A rather dramatic turn of events due to injuries and the physical pain that accompanies were beyond his control. But what about the silent inner conflict during such a phase, especially going from being top-40 to currently ranked 722 in the world?

"Of course it's completely different when you are 40 and then you have to start this game from zero completely. I just want to stay healthy and win as many matches as I can. I started playing in March (2026), so I want to go until the end of the season to see where I can reach," offers Ivashka.

Ask him about describing his journey filled with highs and lows and Ivashka's straight face sets the stage for a straight-forward, no-nonsense reply similar to the approach he swears by to counter every test thrown by tennis.

"I have no complaints about anything. No, because it doesn't change anything. If I start to complain, it's not going to change anything," admits the Arsenal fan, who had dropped a mere 11 games in three of his straight-set wins in Bengaluru before losing to top seed Keegan Smith of the USA in the semifinal on Friday.

It will be a defeat Ivashka is sure to take in his stride as he awaits yet another week and another reset in his quest to regain his glory days.

Bengaluru United seal IFL promotion

BENGALURU, DHNS

FC Bengaluru United held on to their nerves for a 1-1 draw against hosts MYJ-GMSC in I-League 2 to earn promotion for next season's Indian Football League in Mumbai on Friday.

Table toppers Delhi FC did FCBU a favour by holding third-placed United SC to a 1-1 draw in Kalyani, West Bengal, while becoming the champions in the process. Both FCBU and Delhi FC will play in the Indian Football League next season.

Bengaluru United, however, breathed easy early in their match as Lijo K headed in from close range following a cross from Shunjanthan Ragui to take the lead. MY-GMSC levelled through Shravan Shetty early in the second half (47th minute).

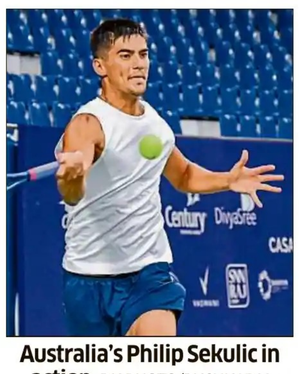
However, the other decider was soon locked at 1-1 too, making FCBU's task simpler by holding on to the scoreline to ensure promotion.

"This moment belongs to our players, coaches, staff, fans, academy families and the entire city that stood behind us through the journey. To see the passion, energy and belief around the club today is truly special. We're proud of how far we've come, but even more excited about what lies ahead for FC Bengaluru United and the future of football in this city," said Gaurav Manchanda, FCBU owner.

Meanwhile, SC Bengaluru, who went out of the promotion run last week, finished fourth in the I-League 2 with a 1-2 victory over hosts Sporting Goa in Bambolim. A brace from Karthik Thirumalai (28th, 56th) sealed the consolation win despite late push from Sporting through Ivon Costa (78th).

Results: MYJ-GMSC: 1 (Shravan Shetty 47th) drew with FCBU: 1 (Lijo K 4th); Sporting: 1 (Ivon Costa 78th) drew with SCB: 1 (Karthik Thirumalai 28th, 56th).

FC Bengaluru United players and coaching staff pose after confirming Indian Football League promotion at the Neville D'Souza Ground in Mumbai on Friday. FCBU



Australia's Philip Sekulic in action. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Aussie Sekulic ends tired Tyagi's run to set up final against Smith

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Recovery was the word Kriish Tyagi mentioned multiple times after his quarterfinal-winning high at the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger here on Thursday. The 19-year-old knew he had to rest his body well to recuperate so he could be fully ready for the semifinal.

On Friday, the Bengaluru boy received a reality check that process is easier said than attained when the last Indian standing at the event was eliminated by fourth-seeded Australian Philip Sekulic.

The 22-year-old Aussie, ranked 357 in the world, needed a mere one hour and three minutes to breeze through to a 6-0, 6-2 victory over the 1322-ranked Tyagi and book his place in the final.

Everything from the toss of the ball to the swing of the racquet from Tyagi appeared to have a lag. Sekulic, who perhaps spotted his opponent's fatigue during warm-up, was quick to capitalise on every opportunity. Without giving any room, the Aussie sent down strong serves and made Tyagi run from end to end, which tired the latter further.

While the first set went past the Indian teen in a jiffy, Tyagi was finally able to hold the first of his two service games in the second set. That glimmer of hope for a fightback turned into fading light as Sekulic stayed solid and broke Tyagi twice in the sixth and eight games to close out the match.

Sekulic will take on top seed Keegan Smith of USA, who scored a 6-4, 6-4 win over Belarus' Ilya Ivashka in the other semis.

Results (semifinal, prefix denotes seedings): Singles: 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt Ilya Ivashka 6-4, 6-4; 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) 6-0, 6-2. **Doubles:** Petr Bar Biryukov/ Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) bt Adil Kalyanpur (Ind)/ Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4); Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (Ind)/ Saketh Myneni (Ind) bt 1-SD Prajwal Dev (Ind)/ Nitin Kumar Sinha (Ind) 7-5, 6-1.

Ruud rolls into Italian Open final

ROME, AFP: Casper Ruud reached the final of the Italian Open on Friday after dismantling Italy's Luciano Darderi 6-1, 6-1 in a rain-interrupted match and setting up a potential title showdown with Jannik Sinner.

Norwegian Ruud dealt with flamboyant Darderi with the minimum of fuss, even after having to wait nearly two hours to restart a match he was already winning easily.

A huge downpour paused, but had no impact on, Ruud's march to his first final since winning in Stockholm.

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Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

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Nature's palette on your plate
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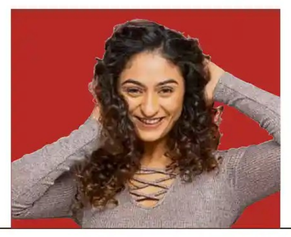


Soft spirals make a strong statement
PAGE 03

Get your reading habit going again
PAGE 04

Show Buzz | Simran Ashwini

'I want to be an actor, not a star...'

Although she is a new entrant on the acting block, actor Simran Ashwini has already spent time understanding the craft of cinema from behind the scenes. The daughter of well-known producer Ashwini Sidwani, she assisted acclaimed filmmaker Nagraj Manjule on the 2023 Marathi film 'Ghar Bandook Biryani', before stepping in front of the camera for the recently-released series 'Matka King', also created by Nagraj and produced by Ashwini.

Set in 1960s Mumbai, 'Matka King' features actors Vijay Verma, Kritika Kamra and Gulshan Grover, with Simran playing Vasudha - a privileged, layered character with a quiet rebellious streak.

Simran Ashwini speaks about her experiences on set, learning the ropes and why she is focused on being an actor first, in this chat with **Deepa Natarajan Lobo.**

Did you always want to be an actor?
Yes, since childhood. My mother was an actor before she became a producer, so I was always in and around that world. I used to watch many films growing up, and it always fascinated me.

Who influenced you while growing up?
I grew up watching actors Irrfan Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol. Films such as 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham' were a big part of my childhood. My sister and I would often go through magazines and fight over who got to be Kareena or Rani. It was a different time - simple and so much fun.

You worked in 'Matka King' after assisting with a film. Did that experience help?
A lot. I was a continuity assistant director in 'Ghar Bandook Biryani', and that experience stayed with me. In 'Matka King', I was very particular about continuity. Even small things like remembering my mehendi design or nail polish across scenes became important. For me, those small details felt like big wins - it made me feel like I knew what I was doing.

What was it like - being on set with actors Vijay Varma and Gulshan Grover?
Honestly, I was very nervous. My first scene was with everyone around, and I just blanked out. I forgot everything I knew about acting. But the environment helped. Nagraj guided me step by step and made sure I didn't feel overwhelmed. Once I settled in, it became much easier.

Does coming from a family with a film background make the journey easier?
Yes, coming from a family with a film background does make the environment more familiar, but one still doesn't get work easily. If that were the case, I would have started much earlier. So, I wouldn't consider myself a 'privileged kid'. Even now, I'm not playing the lead. I have a prominent role and I'm okay with that. I'm still learning. Moreover, I want to be an actor, not a star. There are many stars, but not all are actors.

What does life look like for you when you're not in the movie industry?
I actually live in Atlanta and shuttle between India and the United States. When I'm there, I work as a Montessori school teacher and a swimming instructor.
I've always been into sports - I'm a national-level swimmer. So I go back to that whenever I can. I also travel with my family during my free time and have been to 35 countries so far.

What's on the cards for you?
I've signed two projects and will be travelling to Istanbul soon for a shoot. I am very excited about it.

Hypertension: Timely diagnosis, consistent treatment vital

Early intervention will prevent damage to vital organs especially among the youth who are exposed to hypertension for a longer span, says **Dr Shilpa Singi**, Lead Consultant - Academics and Strategies, Internal Medicine, **Aster Whitefield Hospital**

Dr Shilpa Singi

Hypertension was once widely seen as a condition related to aging - almost an inevitable part of getting older - rather than a disease that needed treatment. Today, that is far from the truth. The demographic profile of those developing hypertension has changed significantly, with even people in their 20s being affected increasingly. One of the major reasons behind this shift is what doctors call 'sympathetic overdrive', a state in which the body's sympathetic nervous system, or the 'fight or flight' system, remains chronically over-active. While this system normally helps the body respond to stress, prolonged activation can become a major driver of hypertension.

Stress, sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy eating habits are among the key factors contributing to this change, and that's why, once considered largely an urban problem, hypertension is now increasingly prevalent among rural populations as well.

Long working hours, high screen time, disrupted sleep cycles, ultra processed food consumption and reduced physical activity are increasingly being linked to rising blood pressure among the younger populace. About 31 per cent of Indians are estimated to have hypertension, yet only about half are aware of their condition and, among those who are aware, only half seek treatment, of which, only half of them remain well controlled. This is known as the 'rule of halves' - frequently cited because it captures both the silent nature of hypertension and the public mindset surrounding it. Many people do not feel compelled to act because hypertension often does not produce immediate or alarming symptoms.

However, the condition is frequently accompanied by serious complications and, if left untreated, can lead to irreversible damage to vital organs. Called end organ damage, it notes that high blood pressure is not an isolated condition but part of a gradual progression of cardiovascular damage. Even mildly elevated blood pressure can silently damage blood vessels and organs over time, eventually leading to complications such as stroke, heart disease, kidney failure and premature death if left untreated.

In India, the idea of the hypertension care continuum has become especially relevant as younger people are increasingly being diagnosed with high blood pressure, exposing them to longer periods of silent organ damage if the condition remains uncontrolled.

This highlights the importance of early detection and long-term management of hypertension. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle along with regular medical check-ups are highly recommended. Early detection and timely treatment can help prevent silent organ damage. The three key steps to managing hypertension are early identification, acceptance of the diagnosis and consistent long-term management. Awareness, lifestyle changes and sustained treatment are crucial to preventing a lifetime of irreversible health complications.

Stress aggravates skin conditions

Mental health should be a part of skincare today, says dermatologist **Dr Mukta Sachdev**

Over the last three decades, in dermatology practice, I have witnessed a remarkable shift in the way stress affects the skin. While stress has always been part of human life, today's 'always connected' lifestyle - driven by technology, social media, relentless work demands and reduced emotional downtime - has created a new epidemic of stress-related skin disorders.

Skin Care

The skin and mind are deeply interconnected. In fact, the skin is often called the 'mirror of the mind'. Emotional stress triggers the release of hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline, which increase inflammation, alter immunity and disturb the skin barrier. The result is not merely cosmetic - stress can significantly worsen chronic skin diseases and even trigger new ones.

Acne
One of the most common conditions aggravated by stress is acne. Teenagers and young adults today face enormous pressure from academic competition, online comparisons and unrealistic beauty standards promoted on social media. Stress increases oil production and inflammation, leading to painful break-outs.

Ironically, constant selfie culture and photo filters further intensify anxiety about appearance, creating a vicious cycle.

Eczema, psoriasis
Eczema and psoriasis are also strongly linked to emotional stress. Many patients report flare-ups during exams, workplace conflicts, financial worries or relationship stress. Chronic stress weakens the skin's protective barrier, causing itching, dryness, redness and increased sensitivity. In psoriasis, stress-related immune changes can lead to severe relapses.

Hair loss
Hair loss is another growing concern in the digital age. Telogen effluvium - sudden hair shedding - commonly follows periods of emotional exhaustion, sleep deprivation, crash dieting or burn-out. Young professionals working long hours with poor sleep habits are increasingly presenting with premature hair thinning.

Other conditions
Stress can also trigger urticaria (hives), excessive sweating, skin picking habits and conditions such as rosacea. Many people unknowingly touch or pick their skin repeatedly while anxious, especially during prolonged screen time or work-from-home isolation.

Importantly, modern stress is not only psychological but also lifestyle-related. Excessive screen exposure affects sleep quality by disturbing melatonin production. Poor sleep impairs skin repair, accelerates ageing and worsens dark circles and dullness. Sedentary habits, irregular meals, dehydration and lack of outdoor activity further damage skin health.

Holistic approach needed
Management therefore must go beyond creams and medications. A holistic approach is essential. Regular sleep, balanced nutrition, exercise, hydration and digital detox periods are powerful skin therapies. Mindfulness, yoga, meditation and stress counselling can significantly improve chronic skin conditions. People must also learn to separate online beauty myths from scientific reality.

Beat Stress

Address emotional well-being
Dermatologists must recognise that treating the skin alone is not enough - emotional well-being of the person must be addressed too. Healthy skin in the modern era requires not only good skincare but also mental balance in a hyper-connected world.In today's fast-moving digital society, protecting mental health may well be the most important skincare advice of all.

Going offline to beat stress

The summer heat and never-ending stress are changing the way many spend time with friends. A get-together with the phone away is both digital detox and stress-buster, says **Jayanthi Madhukar**

The scorching summer changed the way many socialize. The great outdoors does not seem to be an option as people prefer gathering in homes to escape the heat.

Down Time

For some, this has meant bringing out board games or playing cards, a quiet and an incidental response to digital fatigue. According to psychologist V Raghuraj, the season itself encourages a slowdown. "The heat makes us slow down and instead of being physically active, we tend to be on our phones or any other gadget, scrolling through social media." He suggests conscious detox by finding ways to spend time with family and friends gathering around a board game or playing cards. "Think of calling friends and family to come over for slower and more tactile ways to spend time together."

For many, this has been a gamechanger. For instance, on a recent Sunday afternoon, friends gathered at Preeti Menon's house in south Bengaluru. Above the hum of the air conditioner, there was lively conversation going on over a game of cards. "Usually, my friends and I go out on treks or road trips but this time, we decided to gather at my place because of the heat."

Praveen Kumar, who has been working in the city for 10 years, says, "My friends and I host games night at our homes on weekends to play board games," he says. "Although we can play computer games online, this was one way to meet up and spend time together. We started board games night as our response to this summer. Usually, we do long distance biking but we are waiting for the days to cool down a little."

Across the city, friends, colleagues and acquaintances have formed groups to play games that are new and interesting. Lavanya G has formed a mahjong group to get people to meet up in person and spend the summer afternoons together. "When we play mahjong, the summer heat is forgotten," she says. "The mahjong sessions last for a couple of hours and that's the best way to beat the heat." The mahjong group has now enough members to branch out to different neighbourhoods. "People don't want to venture too far away from their homes because the heat makes them tired," she says. "That is why we have formed different groups to play at different locations."

One of the rules when playing mahjong is to keep the phone away. "We have ensured that messages and scrolling can be done only for a few minutes at specified intervals," Lavanya notes. "This way we are trying to restrict the time spent on phones. After initial difficulty in staying away from phones, people are appreciating that we made such a rule. This is the chance to try engaging with simple and wholesome activities."

As the summer stretches on, these small, screen-free rituals are beginning to feel less arduous and more like a choice. Plans are simpler, circles smaller and time moves at an easier pace. For now, at least, beating the heat does not require going anywhere fancy. All it needs is a group of friends, a table and a game. And a willingness to stay.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. DELIGHT

Go for colourful ingredients with a neutral base (rice, noodles, coconut milk, cream sauce etc) for a striking display of natural colours on the plate

COLOUR CODE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

NATURAL COLOUR CAN CHANGE

The colours of natural ingredients can change drastically with acidity. You can make butterfly pea flower tea blue to purple by squeezing in a lemon. Purple cabbage can change colour depending on the acidity or alkalinity (pH), which makes cooking more fun and colourful.

COOK WITH LOW HEAT

Your cooking time is significant. Avoid over-cooking colourful vegetables and flowers as heat can dull their natural pigments. Quick stir-frying, gentle simmering or adding ingredients towards the end of the cooking helps preserve their brightness.

Nature's palette ON YOUR PLATE

Deepa Natarajan Lobo explains how you can give your dishes a dash of colour with three recipes from chefs who are experts in it

Who said colourful food should be riddled with synthetic colouring agents when Nature's own palette can do the job as well if not better? From purple cabbage to butterfly pea (or blue pea flower), chefs today are using natural ingredients to add vibrant colour to their dishes while making them look and taste striking.

Think electric blue noodles, galaxy-inspired rice and jewel-toned risottos that are as eye-catching as they are flavourful. These naturally colourful creations bring together creativity, freshness and bold flavours in every bite. Whether you are hosting a dinner party or simply want to brighten up your everyday meals, these recipes are sure to be a conversation starter and a hit at your next gathering.

Blue Blaze Noodles

By chef Eric Sifu

The signature blue hue of the Blue Blaze Noodles is achieved using blue pea flower, a natural ingredient celebrated for its vivid pigment and antioxidant properties. The infusion creates a striking visual appeal while maintaining a clean and balanced flavour profile, allowing the fresh ingredients and bold seasoning to remain the focus of the dish.

What you need

- One and a half cups of uncooked rice noodles
- 10 dried blue pea flowers (or two teaspoons)
- Three cups of hot water
- Half a cup of chopped Bok choy
- Quarter cup each of snacky peppers (sliced) and bean sprouts
- Two teaspoons of cooking oil
- One teaspoon of garlic (finely chopped)
- Two teaspoons of light soya sauce
- One tablespoon of chilli sauce
- Salt to taste

Preparation

Boil three cups of water and add the dried blue pea flowers. Let them steep for seven minutes until the water turns a deep blue colour. Strain out the flowers. Add the uncooked rice noodles to the blue pea flower water and cook according to the packet instructions until soft and naturally tinted blue. Drain and keep aside.

Heat oil in a wok and saute chopped garlic until fragrant. Add Bok choy, snacky peppers and bean sprouts, tossing lightly while retaining the vegetables' crunch and freshness. Add the blue rice noodles and season lightly before stir-tossing everything together over high heat.

Plate the noodles and serve alongside Foo's signature house-made chilli sauce.

Pic courtesy: Foo

Pic courtesy: Sector 144 - JP Nagar

Purple Cabbage and Turmeric 'Galaxy' Rice

By chef Ansari

This is a playful, yet earthy, rice dish with delicate vegetal sweetness from purple cabbage, warm golden notes from turmeric and fragrant basmati bringing a soft aromatic finish.

The lemon adds a bright citrus lift that subtly sharpens the flavours while the purple cabbage transforms the dish into a vivid galaxy-inspired palette of purples, blues and yellows.

What you need

- One cup of purple cabbage (shredded)
- Two cups of cooked basmati rice
- One teaspoon each of turmeric and lemon juice
- Salt to taste

Preparation

Simmer cabbage in two cups of water for 10 minutes. Strain to get purple water. Split the water and add turmeric to half for yellow colour while keeping the other half purple. Cook one cup rice in each coloured water separately. Fluff and layer on a plate. Drizzle lemon over the purple rice to turn it blue/pink.

Beetroot Kokum Risotto

By Altamsh Patel

The rich redness of the risotto comes from the humble beetroot while kokum, a loved ingredient in Maharashtrian cuisine, too brings a reddish hue to the dish in addition to giving it a tangy, aromatic twist.

What you need

- For the Risotto:
- One and a half cups of Arborio rice
- Two medium-sized beetroots (peeled and cubed)
- One tablespoon of ghee
- One medium-sized onion (finely chopped)
- Two garlic cloves (minced)
- One teaspoon of mustard seeds
- 10 curry leaves
- A pinch of Hing (asafoetida)
- Four cups of vegetable stock
- A cup of kokum soaked in half a cup warm water
- Quarter cup of white wine (optional)
- Two tablespoons of grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Salt and pepper to taste

For Garnish:

- Two tablespoons each of roasted cashews (roughly chopped) and fried onions
- Fresh coriander or mint leaves (chopped) for garnish
- Pomegranate seeds for garnish
- Ghee for finishing

Preparation

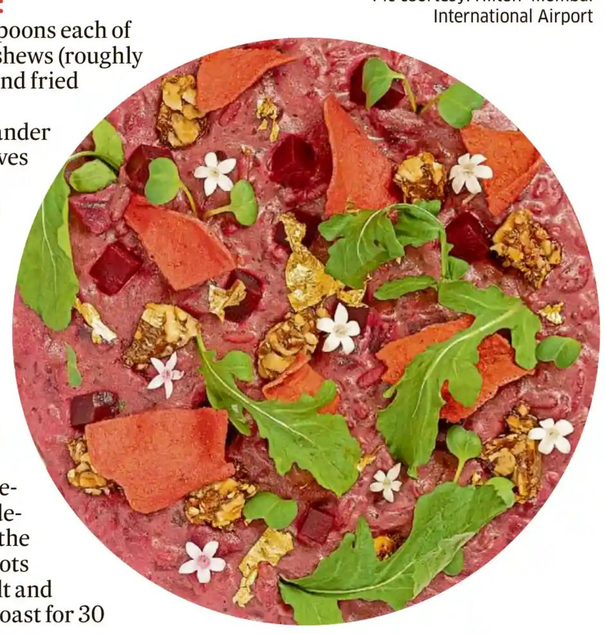
Pre-heat the oven to 180-degree C (350-degree F). Toss the cubed beetroots with ghee, salt and pepper, and roast for 30 minutes until tender. Set aside.

Soak the kokum in warm water for 10 minutes, then strain and add the kokum water to warm vegetable stock. Keep the stock simmering. Heat ghee in a large pan over medium heat. Add mustard seeds, curry leaves and Hing, and cook for a few seconds until fragrant. Add chopped onions and garlic to the pan and saute until soft and translucent (about 3–4 minutes).

Stir in the Arborio rice and cook for two minutes, then add white wine (if using) and cook until absorbed. Begin adding the warm kokum-infused stock, one ladle at a time, stirring frequently, until the rice is tender and creamy (about 20 minutes). Stir in the roasted beetroot cubes and cook for a few minutes until heated through.

Finish with a drizzle of ghee, adjust seasoning and garnish with roasted cashews, fried onions, fresh herbs and pomegranate seeds. Serve hot.

Pic courtesy: Hilton Mumbai International Airport



LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

I GET ALL THE NEWS ON MY PHONE WITH MY MORNING COFFEE
I GET MINE ON TV IN THE EVENING WITH A STRONG DRINK
GREG + MORT WALKER
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1/24

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

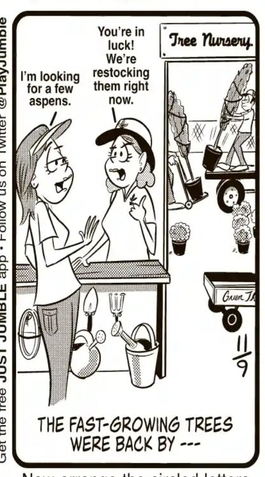
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZAGEL

PAHYP

NHREDC

LMYEDO



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____"

Answers: GLAZE HAPPY DRENCH MELODY

The fast-growing trees were back by — "POPLAR" DEMAND

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HITORI-146

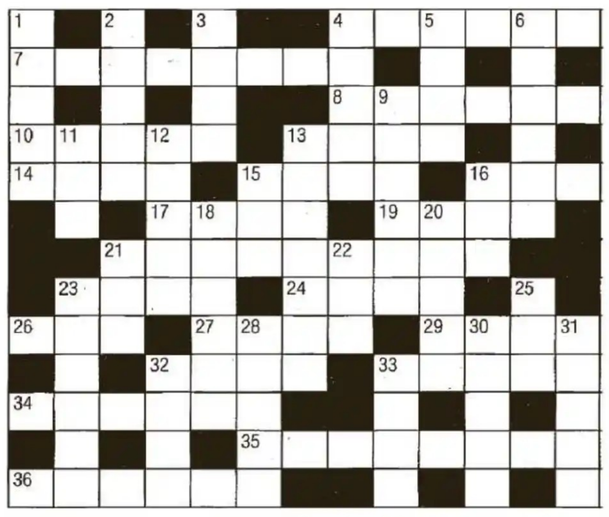
7	8	6	7	3	8	7	7
8	8	5	3	6	1	2	7
7	6	8	6	2	1	1	5
5	7	3	1	4	6	7	8
6	4	1	6	4	3	5	7
3	1	2	6	7	7	4	6
4	2	7	5	8	7	6	3
7	7	4	2	1	7	8	7

SOLUTION for HITORI-146

■	8	■	1	2	4	7	■
3	6	7	8	5	■	2	4
6	■	4	■	7	■	1	3
■	5	3	■	6	1	4	■
8	■	6	4	1	3	■	5
5	1	■	2	■	8	6	7
7	2	1	6	3	5	■	8
■	7	■	3	■	6	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 147



EASY

ACROSS
4 Wool (6)
7 Slaughterhouse (8)
8 Helpful (6)
10 Hatred (5)
13 Quote (4)
14 Midday (4)
15 Info (4)
16 Crafty (3)
17 Impartial (4)
19 Neck part (4)
21 Stingy (9)
23 Roster (4)
24 Instance (4)
26 Offer (3)
27 Snare (4)
29 Peruse writing (4)
32 Therefore (4)
33 Phase (5)
34 Of flowers (6)
35 Champion (8)
36 Doorkeeper (6)

DOWN
1 Stone worker (5)
2 Proportion (5)
3 Plant part (4)
4 Apple, for example (5)
5 Sword (4)
6 Pair (6)
9 Endures (6)
11 Canine (3)
12 Out of condition (5)
13 Venezuelan capital (7)
15 Use a spade (3)
16 Secret agent (3)
18 Girl's name (6)
20 Alarm (5)
21 Signal agreement (3)
22 Knock (3)
23 Market (6)
25 Droop (3)
28 Emporer (5)
30 Keen (5)
31 Decease (5)
32 Horse's gait (4)
33 Not fast (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 His rag may be too vulgar for you (6)
7 Battle rejoined later in court (8)
8 Elastic band (6)
10 Mist may be good in the garden (5)
13 Not everybody in the Somerset side (4)
14 A half turn repeated, often seen in ballet (4)
15 Good beer, it would appear, gives you wind (4)
16 It's a fair way from the green (3)
17 The object of chopping a log (4)
19 Given a rest? (4)
21 Multi-talented, but showing less than everlasting variety (9)
23 Shakespeare's Romeo in an unsuitable setting (4)
24 The place to do business (4)
26 He's big in Westminster, very big in Scotland (3)
27 Poetical land of suffering (4)
29 Where cricket is played with much exceptional valour (4)
32 Punishment one really feels (4)
33 Strike or pinch (5)
34 They're dominant in Douai, but rarer in Rhyl (6)
35 Movie giant you wouldn't want to ape (4,4)
36 Could you make such a meal of cabbage? (6)

DOWN
1 Cheat foolish twits (5)
2 Begin making tarts (5)
3 Pray aloud for the victim (4)
4 Writer who needed two shots at one letter (5)
5 Gunners and engineers are hard to find (4)
6 Cooked concoction of weeds containing a little tea (6)
9 With some viands, she can make an imaginative meal (6)
11 Place in Rajputana (3)
12 To change gear going round a bend, can be boring (5)
13 Sultan upset, alas, by excessive noise (7)
15 Too much talk of stepping ashore (3)
16 Knotted, it possibly has a loose end (3)
18 A trying time or transaction (6)
20 Let everybody get a bit worked up! (5)
21 What Virginia North uses for transport (3)
22 A number participating in christenings (3)
23 Be at the front earlier (6)
25 Can you play it with your eyes shut? (3)
28 Taking the right one to heaven is by no means a certainty! (5)
30 For shielding the eyes, the management has a super one (5)
31 Having long standing supporters (5)
32 The prickly kind may also be edible (4)
33 Does it mean that every crime has its own gravity? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 147

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Garish 7, W-aterl-oo 8, Garter 10, Spray 13, Some 14, Tu-tu 15, G-ale 16, Tee 17, Goal 19, Laid 21, Versatile 23, Ba-R-d 24, Deal 26, Ben 27, Erin 29, Oval 32, Pain 33, Swipe 34, Vowels 35, King Kong 36, Hearty.
DOWN: 1, Twist 2, Start 3, Prey 4, Go-go-I 5, RA-RE 6, S-t-ewed 9, Amel-ia 11, Put 12, A-U-ger 13, Sala-din 15, Gas 16, Ti-e 18, Or-deal 20, All-ow 21, Va.-N 22, Ten 23, Be-fore 25, Nap 28, R-I-sky 30, (super-)Visor 31, Leggy 32, Pear 33, Si-G-n.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Fleece 7, Abattoir 8, Useful 10, Odium 13, Cite 14, Noon 15, Data 16, Sly 17, Fair 19, Nape 21, Niggardly 23, Rota 24, Case 26, Bid 27, Trap 29, Read 32, Thus 33, Stage 34, Floral 35, Exponent 36, Porter.
DOWN: 1, Mason 2, Ratio 3, Stem 4, Fruit 5, Eepee 6, Couple 9, Stands 11, Dog 12, Unfit 13, Carcass 15, Dig 16, Spy 18, Agatha 20, Alert 21, Nod 22, Rap 23, Rialto 25, Sag 28, Ruler 30, Eager 31, Death 32, Trot 33, Slow.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

A cucumber's skin is packet with nutrients. Discarding the skin reduces its health benefits

VEGGIE FACT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

VERSATILE VEGGIE

Cucumber is a very versatile veggie. It can be eaten raw as sticks, and makes for a healthy snack. It is common in salads and sandwiches. It can be used as an infusion in water through the summer months. It goes with a variety of dishes and pairs well with summer favourites such as curd.

CRUNCHY AND REFRESHING

Many typical summer dishes can get a crunchy touch with cucumber. A cucumber-based dish such as raitha is light, refreshing and nutritious. This veggie should be a part of your daily diet through the summer months. It adds texture and variety to any main course dish.

Summer **Byte**

Season's veggie

Even as the temperature begins to dip a bit, the need to stay hydrated is still on. While fluids are a must-do through the day, some veggies can add their bit of hydration too. Cucumber is a versatile veggie with 95 per cent water content. It's a great way to beat the heat.

Anytime snack

Cucumber is low in calories and aids in weight management. It is a great snack in between meals. Cucumber sticks are easy to carry and make for a light bite any time of the day. They are filling and their high water content helps in keeping you well-hydrated in the hot days.

RICH IN NUTRITION

Cucumber contains Vitamins K and C. It also has potassium and is packed with antioxidants. This veggie strengthens bones, is good for the skin and aids in controlling blood pressure. It also helps build a strong immune system and helps keep summer infections away.

Strengthens digestion

This veggie is high in fibre content. It helps in better digestion and reduces bloating. The combination of high water content and fibre helps prevent constipation. Its high water content helps maintain bowel regularity as dehydration causes constipation.

NO COOKING

On an exceptionally hot day, when you want to minimise cooking and exposure to heat from the stove, cucumber comes in handy. As a salad it goes well with any meal and needs no cooking. Chilled cucumber slices are commonly used to soothe tired and puffy eyes, especially in summer.

Reading the language of Indian heritage weaves

Indian handlooms carry within them the soul of a civilisation, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

To truly understand India's great heritage textiles is to realise that a saree is never just a garment. It is a coded language of geography, spirituality, memory, craftsmanship and identity. Every motif, border, colour and weave carries meaning - often Centuries old. Among the greatest classical textiles of India, three remain eternal benchmarks of luxury and artistry - Kanchipuram, Paithani and Benares.

The magnificent silk sarees of Kanchipuram are perhaps the most architectural of Indian weaves. Woven originally for temple rituals and royalty, their motifs are deeply inspired by south Indian temple culture. The famed gopuram borders echo temple towers, while motifs like the rudraksha, mayil (peacock), annam (mythical swan), chakra and yaali reflect spirituality, power and prosperity. Even the contrast borders - a hallmark of Kanjivarams - symbolise dramatic south Indian aesthetics rooted in classical dance, Carnatic music and temple sculpture. A true Kanchipuram saree feels almost sculptural in its grandeur.

Travel west to Paithan and the Paithani becomes poetry in silk. Regal, and lyrical, the Paithani is distinguished by its jewel-like colours and intricate handwoven pallus. Here, motifs are softer, more Nature-inspired and often deeply feminine. The iconic peacock remains central, symbolising beauty and immortality. The famed Bangdi Mor motif - peacocks woven into circular bangle-like forms - is among the most celebrated achievements of Indian weaving artistry.

Then comes the opulence of Varanasi, home of the legendary Banarasi weave. If Kanchipuram is temple architecture and Paithani is poetry, Banaras is sheer magnificence. Banarasi textiles introduced intricate floral jaals, paisleys, climbing vines and elaborate brocades woven with gold and silver zari. A great Banarasi weave possesses depth, drama and old-world nobility.

Yet, India's textile language extends far beyond these classics. The geometric brilliance of Patola from Gujarat, the spiritual subtlety of Jamdani from Bengal, the tribal abstractions of Ikat from Odisha and Telangana, and the austere elegance of Chanderi and Maheshwari are equally important chapters in India's textile story.

Perhaps the greatest luxury today is not merely owning these masterpieces - but understanding them. Because, every authentic Indian handloom carries within it the soul of a civilisation woven into cloth.

Pics courtesy: Prasad Bidapa Associates

Soft spirals make a strong statement

Mane **Vain**

Curly haircare routine today is less about control and more about care, says **Swatee Jog**

Every morning, when in school, Aparna Nayak, now a 45-year-old writer, would find herself fidgeting and complaining while her mother carefully combed and plaited her thick, curly hair. "I endured this through my teenage and 20s. So, I wore my hair short. But as I turned 40, I was desperate to get the poker straight hair all my friends had. I had a chemical straightening done", says Aparna. The transformation was dramatic. Her naturally springy curls disappeared, replaced by sleek, straight strands that drew approving comments from relatives and friends.

But, straightening came with a price. She had to redo it every few months. That's when she decided to stop it and embrace her original hair.

Aparna's story is familiar to millions of Indian women born with wavy, curly or dense frizzy hair that's hard to tame. Curls were often treated as wild and untamed. Today, that narrative is changing sharply, with more curly-haired women opting to flaunt their natural curls.

Begin with moisture

At her salon, stylist Meera Kapoor witnesses the shift daily. "Ten years ago, most curly-haired clients came in seeking to straighten their hair," she says. "Now they ask how they can define their curls and keep them healthy." Her message is simple. "Your hair already knows what to do. Our job is to support it, not fight it."

That support begins with moisture. Curly hair tends to be naturally drier because oils from the scalp have a harder time traveling down each bend and spiral. Indian weather does not offer much help either. "When curls are hydrated, they become more defined, softer and less frizzy," Meera explains.

New curl ritual

The modern curly routine is less about control and more about care. With increased awareness, women are using sulfate-free cleansers, rich conditioners, leave-in products, curl creams and gels to enhance natural shape.

Special products are applied to wet hair. Curls are gently finger-coiled while wet. Hair is air-dried or diffused to preserve shape and reduce frizz. A weekly deep-conditioning treatment, use of a microfibre towel and a satin pillowcase often become essential tools. "Once I stopped treating my curls like a mistake," says Aparna, "they became the feature people compliment most."

Straightening is exhausting

For Nisha Menon, a 35-year-old media professional, the decision was practical as much as emotional. "I was spending hours straightening my hair before every important event," she says. "Rain or sweat would undo all that effort in minutes."

When she began wearing her long, natural curls with the help of some products, she expected difficulty. But it turned out to be easy and worth it. "People told me I looked more confident, more like myself."

Stylists note that reducing frequent heat and chemical treatments can improve elasticity, shine and overall hair health.

More than hairstyle

Curly hair offers natural volume, slower movement and versatility. But for many women, the greatest benefit is psychological. "There is something liberating about stopping the constant attempt to fit into a narrow standard," says Meera Kapoor. "When a woman learns to care for her curls, she often discovers a new relationship with herself."

That sentiment resonates deeply with Aparna. "I spent years 'correcting' what actually made me unique," she says. "Now my curls feel like a signature."

Many women are choosing to preserve their natural texture rather than conceal it. They are investing in hydration, healthy styling and products that enhance rather than transform. They are saving time, reducing damage and embracing individuality.

It's bright hues this season

Style **File**

Punchy colour pops are lending a new dimension to wardrobes this season, says **Shilpi Madan**

Mood-booster colours in bright hues are replacing the quieter, subtle shades in an eye-popping anchor in your appearance this season. Get with it and bring a splash out in your wardrobe.

Sunshine yellow

A sunny shade of yellow instantly elevates your appearance from simple to cheerful. Elbow aside the muted hues and celebrate the flaming marigold, mango palette, turmeric flow and bring in an interesting dimension to your look. Golden yellow adds an interesting dimension to your appearance instantly. Choose a sunflower top or even high heels to add a spring to your step.

Pic courtesy: Juliet Apparels

Limy lines

A lime green revs up your appearance by a few sophisticated notches. The fun energy of the colour breathes a touch of pizzazz into your wardrobe. Make it yours by bringing in a handbag in the hue. Choose a limpid silk scarf in chartreuse for a touch of elegance and add a special touch to your accessories by including a lipstick case or a sunglass cover in the same hue.

Rich purple

Move aside lilacs. The deep jewelled aubergine is the king this season. It's a versatile shade that has been hobnobbing through celebrity wardrobes these days. Make it yours in a stylish pick – mules or hairbands, a gorgeous tie or corset, flared crinkled skirt or a waist-cinching belt. The dramatic sweep pairs up well with both casual and formal outings, to add a touch of sparkle to your night out.

Bubblegum brights

Dial into playfulness with pinks. Lend a punch to your morning run in a track suit that revs up your energy. Own the room when you walk in wearing your candy pink shirt teamed with trousers or a draped skirt.

Play up with a touch of gloss and shimmer in the hue to make it the perfect pick for an evening out.

Bold blues

Invite the elegant exuberance of the rich colour into your wardrobe. Nothing succeeds like a polished appearance and the sapphire deep runs make way for just the right quantum of poise. A top with sleeve detailing, frills, tassels and layers make this a head turner in a linen blazer, a voluminous skirt or a power dress. Make it yours this summer.

Pic courtesy: Bungalow Swim and One Less

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. VARIETY

A warm cloth placed over your closed eyes for 5-10 minutes eases strain and relaxes the muscles around your eyes

EYES WISE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

DON'T STOP BLINKING

Many people sitting in front of a computer don't blink as often as needed. Staring at a screen wide-eyed without blinking leads to dry eyes. You need to blink around 20 times a minute. Make a conscious effort to keep blinking while working on the computer.

EAT RIGHT

A good diet helps keep your eyes fit. Leafy greens and some vegetables such as carrot and sweet potato are good for the eyes. Broccoli, corn and onion too are advised for eye health. Packed with antioxidants and Vitamins A and C, they help keep your eyes sharp.

Eye Care

20-20-20 rule

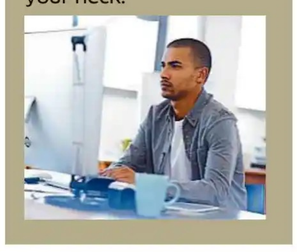
Tired eyes are common with those who work long hours looking at a computer screen. Invariably the light will not be adequate or focussed right. Follow the 20-20-20 rule to relax the eye muscles. Every 20 minutes look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

FIX SCREEN BRIGHTNESS

It helps to reduce glare from your computer screen. Lower the brightness to a level that is comfortable and readable. Rather than squint and strain to read, increase the text size to a comfortable level. Your computer screen should be slightly below the eye level.

POSITION MONITOR RIGHT

Your computer's monitor should be at the right distance from your eyes. The screen should be placed at around an arm's length from you. The screen being at the right distance will help reduce eye strain, especially if you are working on it for long spells through the day. It also reduces strain to your neck.

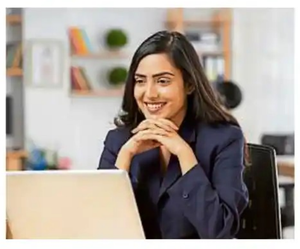


Keyboard and mouse

Ensure the keyboard and mouse are close to you and within easy reach always. Your elbows should form a 90-degree angle while you work on the computer. Your wrists should extend straight ahead from your arm while typing. Avoid resting your wrists on a sharp desk edge or arm of chair.

RIGHT POSTURE

The way you sit makes a difference. Your feet should be flat on the floor and your knees bent at a 90-degree angle. Ensure adequate support for your spine. Your shoulders should be relaxed. Ensure you don't work hunched over the table, with the monitor close to your face.



Flavours of MANGO

Summer Sip

Ikyatha Yerasala presents two mango delights curated by chefs with a cafe twist

From thirst-quenching mocktails to inventive cocktails, the king of fruits is inspiring cafes to use the mango to experiment with bold concoctions. Blending nostalgia with innovation, these mango-based drinks are becoming the ultimate way to beat the heat while savouring the flavour of summer in every sip. Here are two recipes that use mangoes to create exciting drinks:

● By chef Sri Kumar

Mango Basil Citrus Slush

What you need (serves two)

- 150 gm frozen ripe mango
- 12 fresh basil leaves
- 25 ml fresh lime juice
- 40 ml honey
- 180 ml tender coconut water
- One cup of ice cubes
- Pinch of salt
- Optional garnish - fresh basil sprig and mango cubes

Preparation

Combine frozen mango cubes, lime juice, honey (or sugar syrup), coconut water and ice cubes in a blender. Blend until you get a smooth, thick slush-like consistency. Add the basil leaves and blend briefly again to infuse the flavour without over-powering it. Taste and adjust sweetness or acidity if needed.

Pour into chilled glasses. Garnish with a fresh basil sprig and mango cubes. Serve immediately while chilled.

● By mixologist K Bhutesh

Dessert Rain

A bold, tropical cocktail that brings together the tang of raw mango, the heat of pickled jalapeno and the smooth depth of tequila. Inspired by tropical flavour profiles and elevated spice pairings, Dessert Rain delivers a lively mix of flavours where the tanginess of Thotapuri raw mango meets the earthy warmth of tequila.

It captures the essence of a refreshing downpour on a warm day and is unexpected, invigorating and deeply satisfying.

What you need (serves one cocktail)

- 60 ml tequila
- 50 gm Thotapuri raw mango (peeled and chopped)
- 10 gm pickled jalapeno
- 15 ml each of fresh lime juice and sugar syrup
- Smoked paprika chilli salt (for rim)
- One block of ice
- Slice of raw mango for garnish

Preparation

Rim a rocks glass with smoked paprika chilli salt. In a shaker, muddle the raw mango and pickled jalapeno to release flavours. Add tequila, fresh lime juice, sugar syrup and ice. Shake well until chilled. Strain into the prepared glass over a block of ice.

Garnish with a slice of raw mango and serve.

Get your reading habit going again

If you find reading a book has become difficult with constant distractions, fret not. You can train your mind to read once again, writes **Jayanthi Madhukar**

Book Mark

When was the last time you sat down with a book and read it continuously without getting distracted by your smartphone? If you can't recollect then perhaps your attention span needs some fixing. Reading can have a wide range of benefits - reasoning, comprehension, skills, imagination, empathy, mental health, cognitive health and more. When you read, you are also enhancing your educational attainment, even if the reading is for your leisure.

We asked a few people who read books for some tips which will help those who feel they don't have the time to read more or struggle to finish a book because of the dopamine hits their smartphone gives them.

Read what's in your reach

Keep the books you want to read visible near you. If you commute to work, carry the book in your bag. "I take the Metro to my workplace," says Sunaina Reddy. "Since it is almost an hour-long ride, I used to drain out my phone battery by continuously being on it. I decided to carry a small book and now I read it whenever I want a break from the phone. I remember carrying a book of quotes and would read just one quote at a time. Today, I can read more than half a novel without any trouble at all."

Read 'bite-sized' content

Lina Ramesh prides herself for being able to completely disconnect from her phone on weekends. "It wasn't like that before," she says. "I decided to rekindle my reading habit after I would get tired spending a couple of hours doomscrolling."

She recommends that if a book feels like a huge commitment, find one that that has bite-sized content, essays or short stories. This makes it easier to finish reading what you had set out to. "There is more satisfaction when you have kept up with the reading goal for the day." Slowly increase the content after getting comfortable.

Read your choice

"Before you begin, make sure the book is of your interest and not what people have recommended," says avid reader Shailesh Anand. When you choose comfort over ambition then it becomes easier to read.

Going after titles which are on 'must-read' lists is of no use if the topic does not interest you. "I like travelling a lot so whenever I have the time, I read travel guides because there is so much to learn. If you like comics, pick up the ones you like, perhaps even those that interested you when you were a kid, and start reading them."

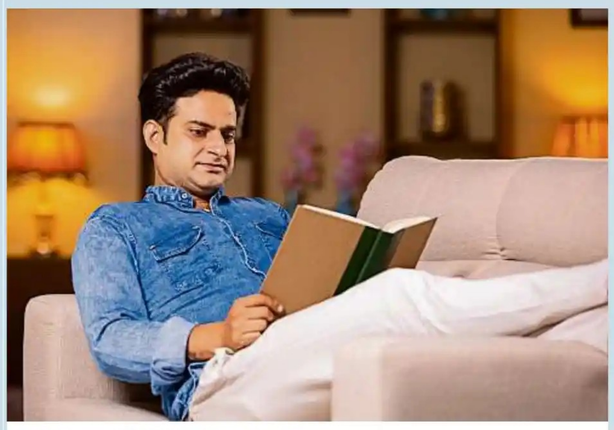
Read with pleasure, not force

Don't force yourself to finish a book. "If a book feels tedious, I stop reading it after making a few sincere attempts," says Ruma R. "Instead, I pick a new book that may be better. Sometimes, I even read an old favourite of mine rather than forcing myself to read a book that I am not interested in."

'Read' audiobooks

If reading seems impossible, try hearing audiobooks when doing chores like cleaning, walking or when travelling. It still keeps your mind focussed on the book and is just a new way to enjoy reading.

Mahesh Rao, a crime genre enthusiast, says that he was pleasantly surprised when he got an audiobook. "The narration was interspersed with dramatic music and I found it extremely lively." If audio books don't enthuse you, try reading a digital book.



Why read?

Regular reading improves concentration and strengthens memory by training the mind to focus for longer periods without distraction

It enhances vocabulary, communication skills and critical thinking, making it easier to express ideas clearly and confidently

It serves as a form of relaxation, reducing stress and providing a healthy break from constant screen time.

Regardless of genre, reading nurtures curiosity, creativity and lifelong learning while encouraging moments of quiet reflection in an increasingly fast-paced world

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SITE FOR Sale 30x40 Feet, near Bus Stand, Hesaraghatta, Bangalore 560088. Khatha No. 1319/32/1/10. Owner Contact: 9449220986, 8480274186

Kanakapura Road

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2.Residential site for sale in 7th Block F Sec 30x40 (Arkavathi alternate)
Contact: Owner
Mob: 7204897695 / 9844262220

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Contact Kumar 9945119449

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT Sites No. 509, 510 2nd Block West 20x30 Rs. 57 Lakhs Negotiable: 9845793121

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Mysore Road

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REKHA H.,** residing at #006, Ground Floor, Tirumala Deluxe Apartment, Sir M Visveswaraya Road, Indira Gandhi Housing Colony, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560076, have changed my name to **REKHA FERNANDES** vide affidavit dated 13/05/2026 before Notary G.R. Rajanna, Bangalore.

I, BHARATH B.C. Alias B.C. Bharath, Residing at Bengaluru-41 have changed my name as BHARATH BANGALORE CHAKRAVORTHY vide affidavit dated 14/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Ravi Kiran M and Rathnamala,** R/at # 29/2, 7th Cross, Doddanna Industrial Area, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560091, have changed my minor son's name from **CHIRRU** to **CHIRRU RAJ** vide affidavit dated 14.05.2026 before notary Deepa M, Bengaluru. Henceforth he shall be called as **CHIRRU RAJ**.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ZAREENA K.P** and **ZARINA K P,** residing at # B1, Devendra Iha Apartment, 3rd Cross, Arenalli, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru-560061, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **ZAREENA K.P.** vide affidavit dated 07-05-2026 before notary Puttaramaiah, Bengaluru.

I, RITA CHAKRAVARTHY B.A. Alia B.A. RITA CHAKRAVARTHY Alias RITA CHAKRAVORTHY B.A Alias B.A. RITA CHAKRAVORTHY Residing at Bengaluru-41 have changed my name as RITA CHAKRAVARTHY BATTIYANDA AYANNA vide affidavit dated 14/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUJATHA BAI,** residing at No H24/1, Yallamma Temple Street, 7th Cross, 33rd Main Road, Behind Siddalingeshwara Theater Sarakki Garden, J.P. Nagar, 6th Phase, Bagalore-560078, have changed my name to **PARVATHI BAI** vide affidavit dated 12-02-2025 before notary L Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

I, CHAKRAVORTHY B.M Alias B.M.Chakravorthy Residing at Bengaluru-41 have changed my name as CHAKRAVORTHY BANGALORE MUNIKRISHNACHARI vide affidavit dated 14/5/ 2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJESHWARI P,** residing at # 694, 6th Cross, 2nd Main, Rajendra Nagar, Viveknagar Post, Bengaluru - 560047, have changed my name to **MARIA REGINA** vide affidavit dated 15-05-2026 sworn before notary A.S. Narayana Reddy, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **MARIA REGINA** only.

I, JEYTHIRTHA BANNAHALLI VENKATASWAMY, residing at Bengaluru-94 have changed my name as JAYATHIRTHA BANNAHALLI VENKATASWAMY, vide affidavit dated 15/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, SHARATH B.C. Alias B.C. SHARATH Alias SHARATH CHAKRAVORTHY, Residing at Bengaluru-41 have changed my name as SHARATH BANGALORE CHAKRAVARTHY, vide affidavit dated 14/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, BINDU H.D. Alias H.D.Bindu Residing at Bengaluru-41 have changed my name as BINDU HASSAN DEVARAJA, vide affidavit dated 14/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SATHEESHA L,** S/o. H Lingaiah, aged 56 years, residing at No.112, 2nd Floor, 30th Main Road, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to **SATHISH L** for all purposes vide Affidavit Dt: 14.05.2026, sworn before Notary Mohammed Hussain, B'lore.

I, SOUHARD BASARALU have changed my name to SOUARD BASARALU LOKESH vide affidavit dated: 15/5/2026 Before Notary Manohar Jeerige Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I,**RAMPRAKASH VARADHARAJAN** Residing at No. 202, 2nd Floor, Koustubha NRI Elite Apartment, NRI Layout Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016, have changed my name to **RAMPRAKASH PADMANABAN VARADHARAJAN** vide affidavit dated 14.05.2026 before Notary Udaya Kumar. K, Bengaluru.

Lost

LOST
I, Saraswathy Achyuta, w/o late KV Achyuta, R/at 260,1A cross, 6 blk, 2 phase, BSK 3 stage, B'luru 560085, do hereby give public notice to all the concerned that the original sale deed dated 25/06/03, document no. 4008/03-04, registered at Yelahanka Subregistrar's office, with respect to property no A-01, measuring east to west 108+100.4/2ft, north to south 63.8 ft. situated in the layout, 'Greek Agora' at Bynahalli village, Jala hobli is lost/misplaced and is not traceable despite my best efforts. The said deed was executed between Ms. G R Developers, Sri Krishna, prasad and myself. I have given a complaint to Girinagar Police Station, B'luru and the lost report no. 2203843/2026. This notice is issued for the purpose of executing an indemnity bond and obtain a certified copy from sub registrars office. Saraswathy Achyuta, 260, 1A cross, 6 blk, 2 phase, BSK 3 stage, B'luru 560085.

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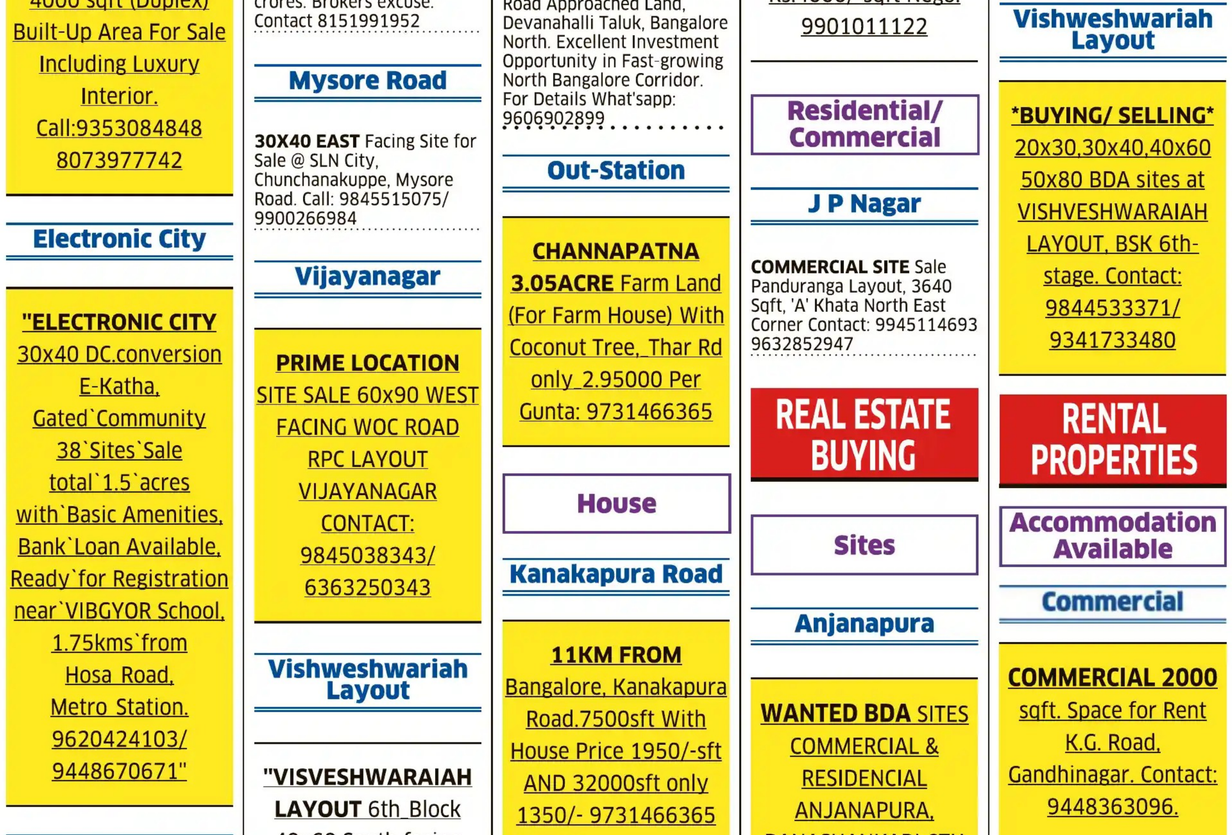
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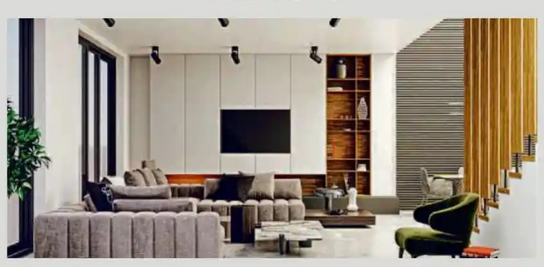

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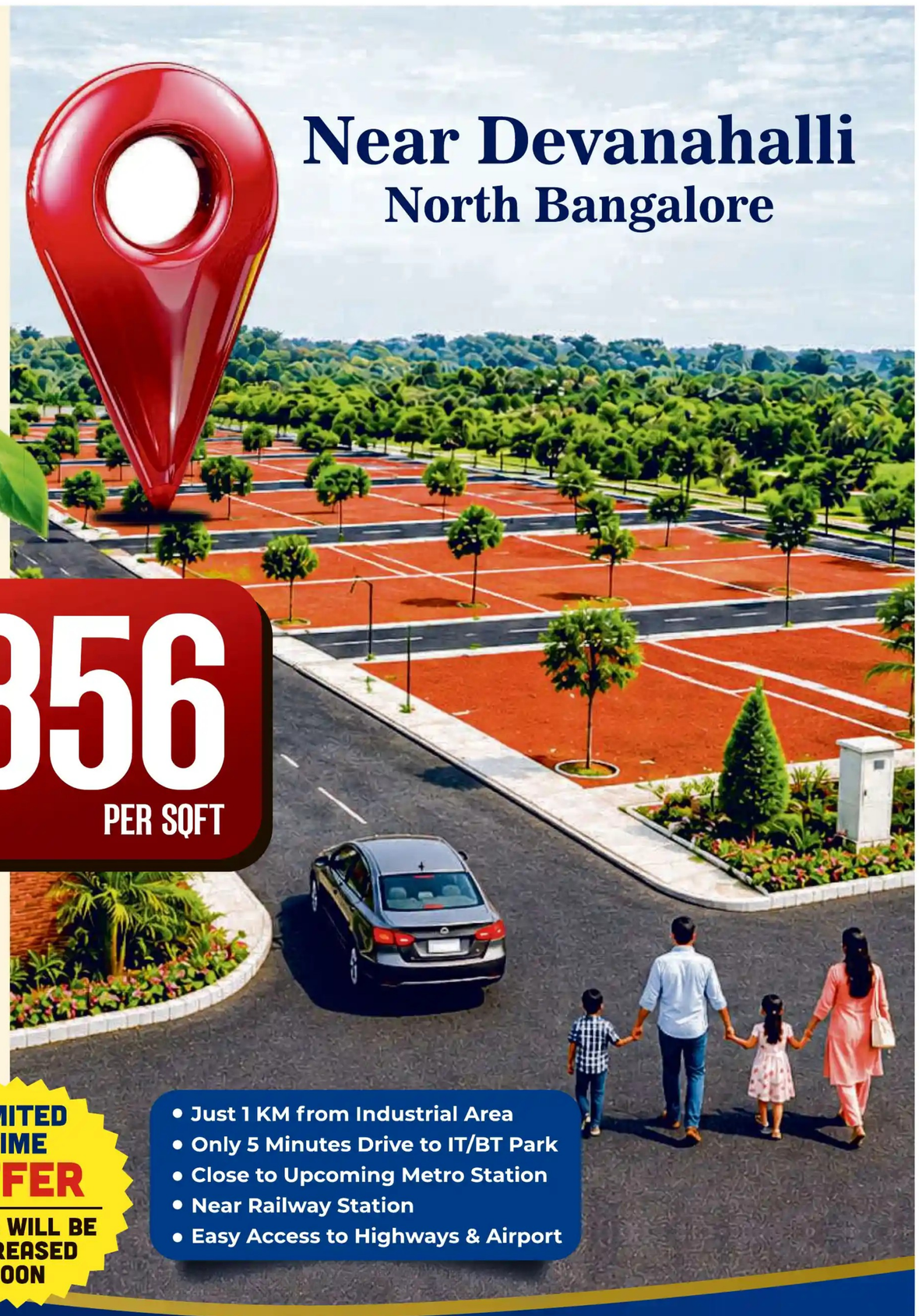

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